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Chapter 1
A rose-colored tomorrow

いくえみ綾の傑作コミックス

初恋ゴールの向こうがわ
女の子ラプソディー
ボクとあそぼうか！
夢をみた。
以心伝心のお月さん 全2巻
エンゲージ 全2巻
うたうたいのテーマ 全2巻
わたしは夢みる少女 全2巻
君たちはガラス 全2巻
天然バナナ工場
POPS 全4巻
彼の手も声も 全4巻
ベイビーブルー
みつめていたい 全2巻
愛があればいーのだ 全2巻
I LOVE HER 全5巻
子供の庭 全2巻
君の歌がある 全3巻
バラ色の明日 ①

集英社ガールズ コミックス

スターダスト3年め
街と人のロマンス

MARGARET COMICS

A Rose-Colored Tomorrow

1

Ikuemi Ryou

MARGARET

バラ色の明日 1

いくえみ綾

2709♦
集英社

A Rose-Colored Tomorrow ①

Ikuemi Ryou

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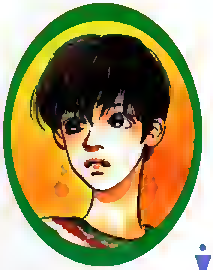
MARGARET COMICS

●収録作品●
バラ色の明日①



作品かいせつ

♥森下更加・16歳と一か月。初めて好きになった人は、姉の婚約者だった。結婚する前に自分の想いを伝えようとするが……。少女の揺れ動く心を繊細なタッチで描く、『狸ばやしがきこえる』。高校時代の先輩と親友の仲を暖かく見守る、『巷に雪の降る如く』。英語学校の受付嬢の恋を描いた『fight』。父親と双子の再会と別離を描いた『お日さまの日々』。常に前向きに生きる、珠玉の読切シリーズです！

LOVE
MC
9709

♣A Rose-Colored Tomorrow♣

♡ I Can Hear the Ghostly Drum-Beating (3)
♡ Like Snow Falling on Harbor (55)
♡ Fight! (103)
♡ The Days of the Sun (155)

STORY 1: I CAN HEAR THE GHOSTLY DRUM-BEATING

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BE WARM.

I'D ALSO LIKE

SOMEWHERE WARM.

TO HAVE A DELICIOUS DINNER,

AND GET SOME SHUT-EYE.

A Rose-Colored Tomorrow

Story 1: I Can Hear the Ghostly Drum-Beating

Ikuemi Ryou

whistle
splash
splash
PANT...
whistle
rustle
rustle
PANT
PANT
THUNK!

kawww
kawww
NO ONE'S WATCHING US.
DESPITE THE FACT THAT THIS PLACE GOES ON FOR MILES AND MILES
whistle
HEY?
whistle
whistle
NO ONE'S
whistle
WATCHING US, YOU KNOW?
rustle rustle

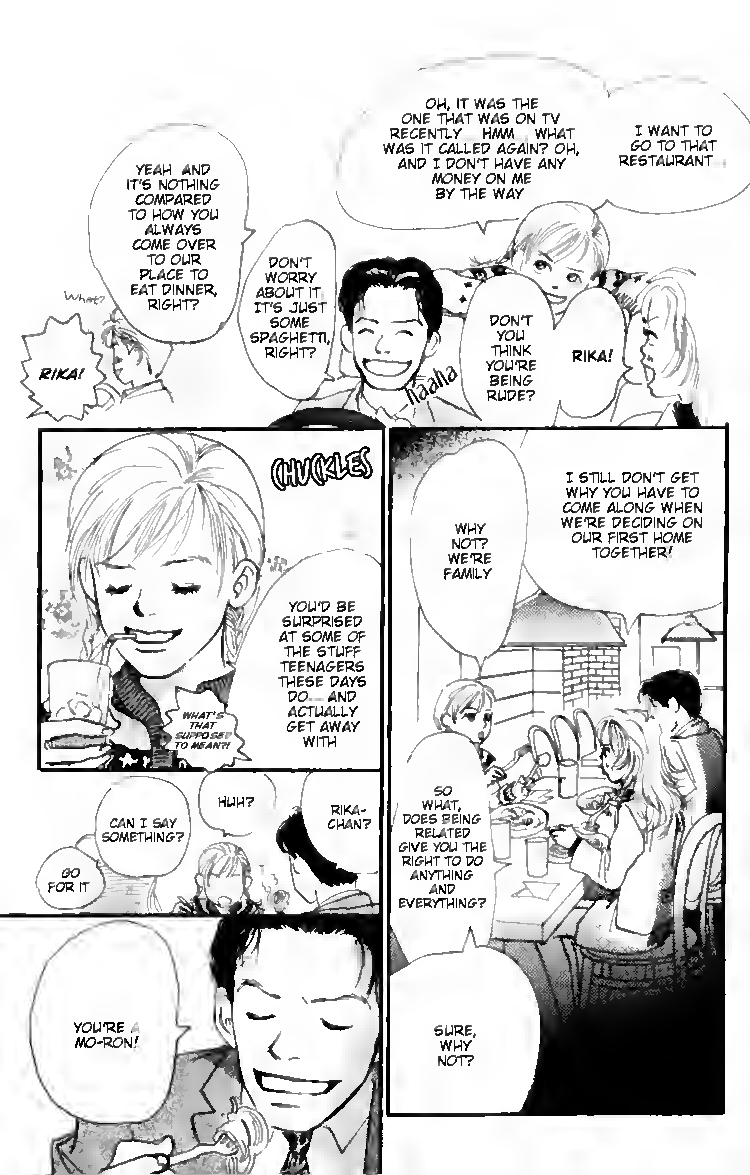
I'm Morishita Rika, currently sixteen years old, plus one month.
The first guy I ever fell for was my older sister Anna's fiance.
I know, I know. Could it get any more stereotypical than that?
But that's how it all began.

IT'S A TWO-WAY KITCHEN, SO IT'S VERY BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS. IN ADDITION, ALL THE KITCHEN APPLIANCES HAVE BEEN NEWLY REPLACED.
AND THIS OVER HERE IS WHERE THE KITCHEN IS LOCATED.
SINCE IT'S FACING THE SOUTHEAST, THERE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM WITH IT NOT RECEIVING ENOUGH SUNLIGHT.

OH, AND WE ALSO HAVE-
IT WILL COME IN VERY HANDY THEN!
CHUCKLES
BUT IF YOU DO INTEND TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS SIZE!
YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S A BIT TOO BIG FOR JUST THE TWO OF YOU,
I DON'T IMAGINE YOU'D BE DOING ENOUGH COOKING TO WARRANT A DISHWASHER.
YEAH, AND THE KITCHEN'S A BIT TOO GRAND FOR US.
AND BESIDES, WHENEVER I'M SHOWERED WITH THE EVENING SUN, I GET SO SLEEPY THAT I CAN'T STAND IT!
YEAH, I HEAR YOU
I THINK IT'S BETTER FOR THE SOUL TO BE EXPOSED TO THE RISING SUN RATHER THAN THE SETTING SUN, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
YEAH?
HEY, AKIO?

AND FOR THE SIZE OF THIS APARTMENT, THE CLOSETS ARE PRETTY SMALL
OH YEAH, IT IS WAY TOO SMALL. WHAT I DON'T LIKE MOST OF ALL THOUGH, IS HOW LOW THE RAILINGS ARE!
WELL I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT BUT WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS ENTRANCE? IT'S MUCH TOO SMALL! THAT JUST IRRITATES ME!
YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT I DO LIKE THE BATHROOM. IT'S SO SPACIOUS! YOU COULD EVEN HANG UP LAUNDRY IN HERE IF YOU WANTED TO!
OH! BUT LOOK!
I TOTALLY AGREE AND BESIDES... SINCE BEDROOMS ARE PRETTY MUCH FOR SLEEPING, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER THE WINDOW FACES SOUTH OR NOT
AND DON'T YOU THINK THE WINDOW IN THE MAIN BEDROOM'S TOO BIG? I DON'T THINK I'D FEEL COMFORTABLE HAVING A WINDOW LIKE THAT IN MY ROOM!
WAY TOO SMALL!
AND THE TOILET'S
IT LOOKS HANDY, BUT IT'S REALLY NOT!
A WASHLET SET!
YOU WOULDN'T USE THIS EITHER, WOULD YOU, AKIO?
DON'T YOU THINK SO? HEY?
THINK ABOUT IT! IF YOU WANTED TO WASH YOUR HAIR, YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST WELL HOP INTO THE SHOWER AND COME OUT ALL SPARKLING CLEAN
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT I WOULDN'T!

...
....
...
SLAM!
Why can't they just be upfront and say they could 'never afford a place like this'?
Vroooom
I'M STARVING...
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?
I COULD REALLY GO FOR SOME SPAGHETTI RIGHT NOW!
WITH EXTRA GARLIC!

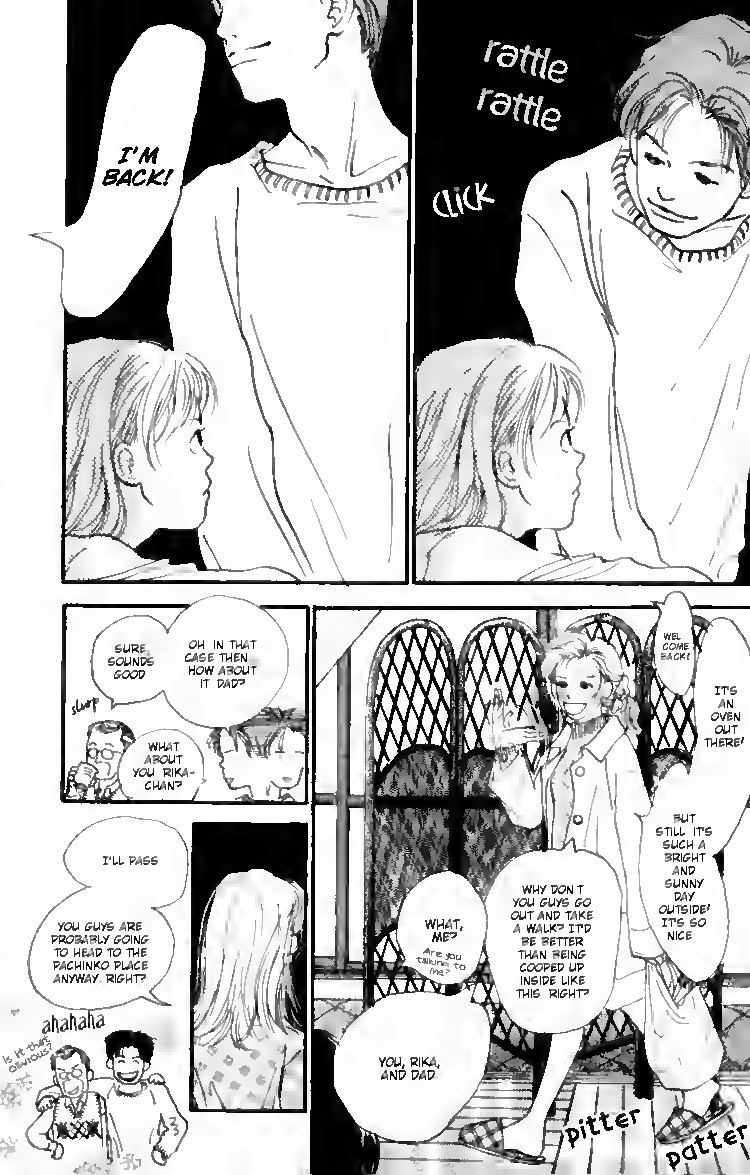

I WANT TO GO TO THAT RESTAURANT
OH, IT WAS THE ONE THAT WAS ON TV RECENTLY... HMM... WHAT WAS IT CALLED AGAIN? OH, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY ON ME BY THE WAY
RIKA!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING RUDE?
Haaha
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S JUST SOME SPAGHETTI, RIGHT?
YEAH AND IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO HOW YOU ALWAYS COME OVER TO OUR PLACE TO EAT DINNER, RIGHT?
What?
RIKA!
I STILL DON'T GET WHY YOU HAVE TO COME ALONG WHEN WE'RE DECIDING ON OUR FIRST HOME TOGETHER!
WHY NOT? WE'RE FAMILY
SO WHAT, DOES BEING RELATED GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO DO ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING?
SURE, WHY NOT?
CHUCKLES
YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT SOME OF THE STUFF TEENAGERS THESE DAYS DO— AND ACTUALLY GET AWAY WITH
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
HUH?
RIKA-CHAN?
CAN I SAY SOMETHING?
GO FOR IT
YOU'RE A MO-RON!

We were a four-person family with my dad, my mom, my older sister, and me
Clatter
CHIRP
CHIRP
No, no! Uh, just give me a few more seconds!
No! I won't wait.
WHAT IS WITH HIM?!
UGH! HE'S HERE AGAIN?!

YOU KNOW
YOU REALLY SHOULD STOP REFERRING TO HIM AS "THAT GUY" OR "THAT THING" OR "THAT MORON."
WELL IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S OFFICIALLY MY BROTHER-IN-LAW YET SO IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD CALL HIM "ONII-SAN" OR ANYTHING
WHY NOT? THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED IN MARCH!
WHERE IS SIS, ANYWAY?
SHE'S OUT SHOPPING
ahaha
"That guy"
can be pretty annoying.
On Sundays and on his days off, even if my sis isn't here,
HELLO~ rattle rattle
He pops into our house like the milk man or something
He lost his parents when he was pretty young, so he said that he's really happy to have a new father and mother.
I guess he's pretty much all set to be the "Masuo"* type.
Dad! let's go play some pachinko!
ahahaha

*Referring to the manga "Sazae-san" in which the man marries into the wife's family instead of the usual other way around

WHAT A RATTY OLD SWEATER
I HEARD YOU CAME BACK REALLY LATE LAST NIGHT.
OH SURE COMING RIGHT UP!
UM, SORRY
BUT COULD WE HAVE SOME TEA?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, AKIO-KUN! TRY TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO HER!
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE, YOUNG LADY! YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT WANDERING AROUND SO LATE AT NIGHT!
I won't sleep without Mom unsure that you've come home safely
UGH, JUST DROP IT!
I'M PERFECTLY FINE
BESIDES, I'M ALWAYS OUT WITH FRIENDS, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M EVER ALONE
click
WELL YOU SHOULD KNOW
THAT THERE ARE SOME BAD GUYS OUT THERE ARE CAPABLE OF DOING SOME REALLY EVIL THINGS THINGS YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE
ALL WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH


I'M BACK!
rattle rattle
click
WELCOME BACK!
IT'S AN OVEN OUT THERE!
BUT STILL IT'S SUCH A BRIGHT AND SUNNY DAY OUTSIDE! IT'S SO NICE
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GO OUT AND TAKE A WALK? IT'D BE BETTER THAN BEING COOPED UP INSIDE LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
WHAT, ME? Are you talking to me?
YOU, RIKA, AND DAD
pitter patter
OH, IN THAT CASE THEN, HOW ABOUT IT, DAD?
SURE SOUNDS GOOD
slurp
WHAT ABOUT YOU, RIKA-CHAN?
I'LL PASS
YOU GUYS ARE PROBABLY GOING TO HEAD TO THE PACHINKO PLACE ANYWAY, RIGHT?
ahahaha
Is it that obvious?

The first time I met that guy
was just over half a year ago.
It was a night in June
HELLO, MY NAME IS SHOJI AKIO.
I'VE BEEN DATING ANNA-SAN WITH THE INTENT TO MARRY HER!
sparkly
.....
.....
.....
.....
OH .....
.....
.....
UH...

Once it starts crying,

there's no stopping it.

have pent up rain.

It gets on my hair,

my face,

my shoulders,

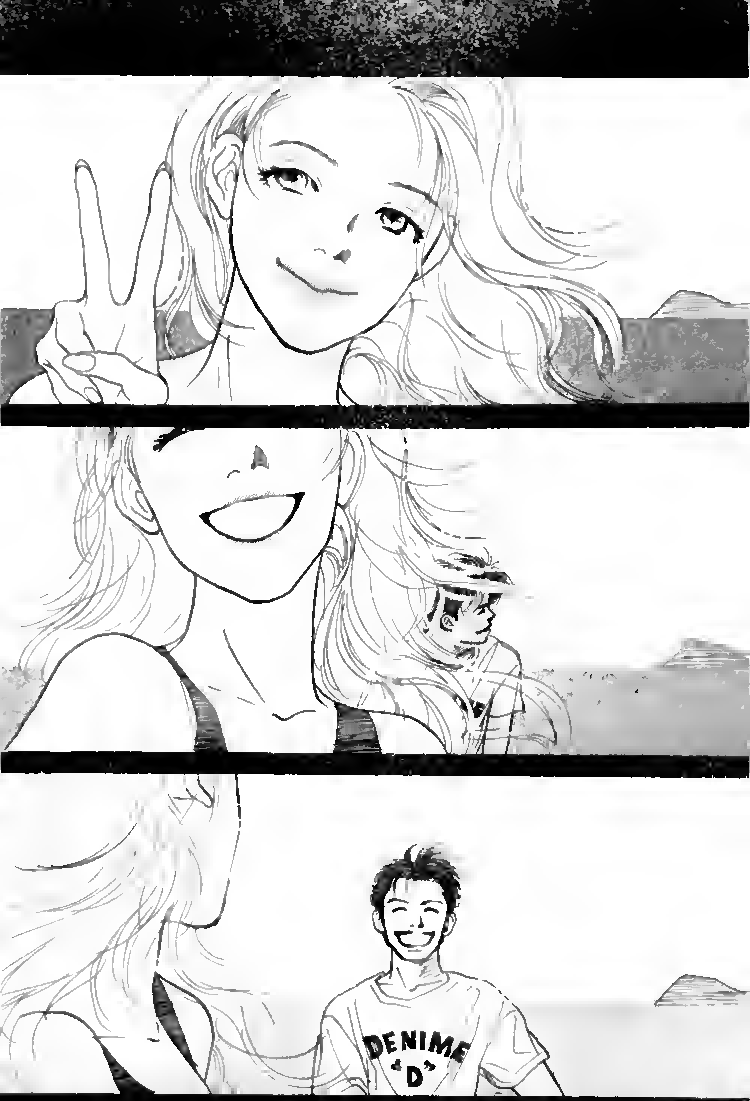
my notebook, my books, my bag, even my school uniform

One...

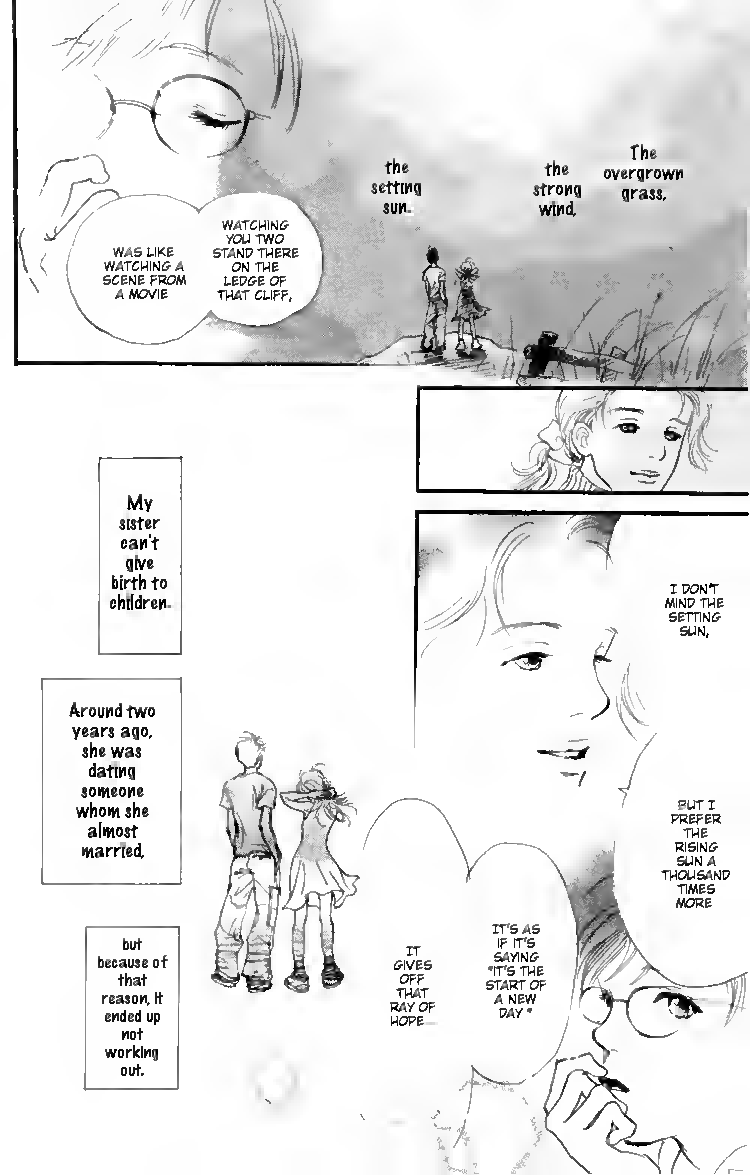
after another...

and another...

MORISHITA, BE HONEST...
plonk
plonk
pi pi pi pi
squeeall!!
CLICK
BRRRR
THUMP
squeeaalll
plonk plonk plonk
YOU BIG FAT LIAR!
pi pi pi
squeeaalll
TOWN SYSTEM
ahahaa
YOU'RE NOT INTO GUYS, ARE YOU?
NOW THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG I TOTALLY AM
WHAT'S... WITH THAT CONFIDENT SMILE?
chuck
SMASH
I'M ALMOST ON THE BRINK OF DROWNING
RIGHT NOW,
I'M NOT CONFIDENT AT ALL


DENIME
"D"

NO YOU DIDN'T
OH STOP PLAYING! I LOOKED REALLY UGLY, AND YOU KNEW IT!
YOU COULD HARDLY TELL, THOUGH
MY FACE WAS ALL PUFFY THAT DAY!
LIKE I TOLD YOU!
YOU'RE NOT IN ANY OF THIS, THOUGH!
IT WAS A NICE DAY, TOO
THAT WAS FUN, HUH?
RIGHT AFTER THIS...
WE WENT TO CAPE WHATEVER-IT-WAS-CALLED, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW
IF YOU TAKE THE AUDIO OUT OF THIS, IT'S LIKE SOME PROMO-FILM
HUH? YEAH YOU'RE RIGHT MAYBE WE SHOULD USE THIS FOR MY WEDDING?
RIGHT HERE!
YOU MEAN FOR THE RECEPTION?

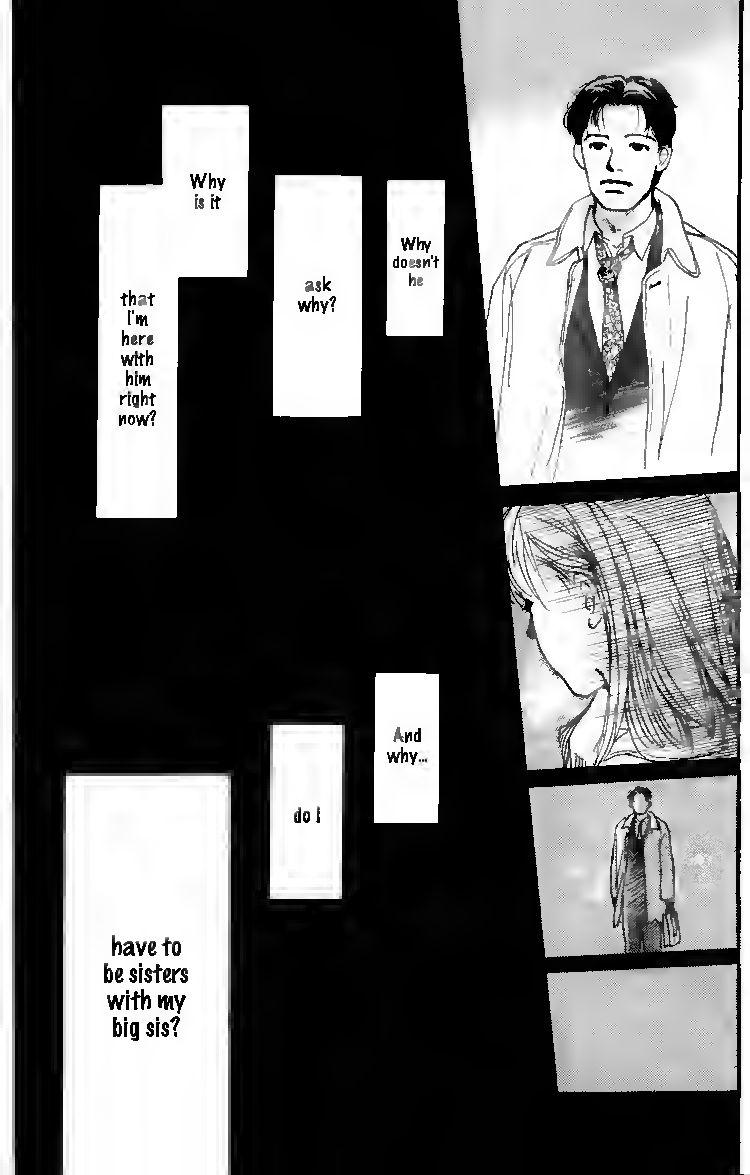

WAS LIKE WATCHING A SCENE FROM A MOVIE
WATCHING YOU TWO STAND THERE ON THE LEDGE OF THAT CLIFF,
the setting sun.
the strong wind,
The overgrown grass,
I DON'T MIND THE SETTING SUN,
BUT I PREFER THE RISING SUN A THOUSAND TIMES MORE
IT'S AS IF IT'S SAYING "IT'S THE START OF A NEW DAY."
IT GIVES OFF THAT RAY OF HOPE
My sister can't give birth to children.
Around two years ago, she was dating someone whom she almost married,
but because of that reason, it ended up not working out.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DON'T! INO-KEN!
AH
HEY
WHO ARE STILL IN THEIR UNI-FORMS
WHAT ARE HIGH SCHO-OLERS,
DOING OUT SO LATE AT NIGHT?!
ahaha
HEY, WHAT'S UP?
What's going on?
EXCUSE ME?
YOU WANT TO START SOMETHING WITH ME, MISTER?
Let's get it on!
My sister's dream ever since she was a little kid was to be a "bride"
"That guy"
is her ray of hope

WHAT A VULGAR BUNCH
FLICK
STO-
Donut
& FRESH DONUT
honk honk
.....
...
....
Vrooom
IS THAT GUY YOUR BOYFRIEND?
I COULD REALLY GO FOR SOME RAMEN RIGHT ABOUT NOW
OR IS OUR CONVERSATION NOT REALLY MESHING?
HEY— IS IT JUST ME—
MISC
MISC
ARE YOU ALWAYS HANGING OUT WITH THEM LIKE THAT?
IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME ALL AROUND TOWN
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S KIND OF DRAFTY IN HERE?
THE CAT, AND THE LADLE, AND THE LONGIE, TOO
WHAT WERE YOU COMING BACK FROM? AN YEAR END OFFICE PARTY? OH, BUT YOU'RE NOT DRUNK

I KNOW THAT
NOT A BAD GUY
INO-KEN'S
.....
.....
.....
ARE YOU DRUNK?
.....
.....
...
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NO

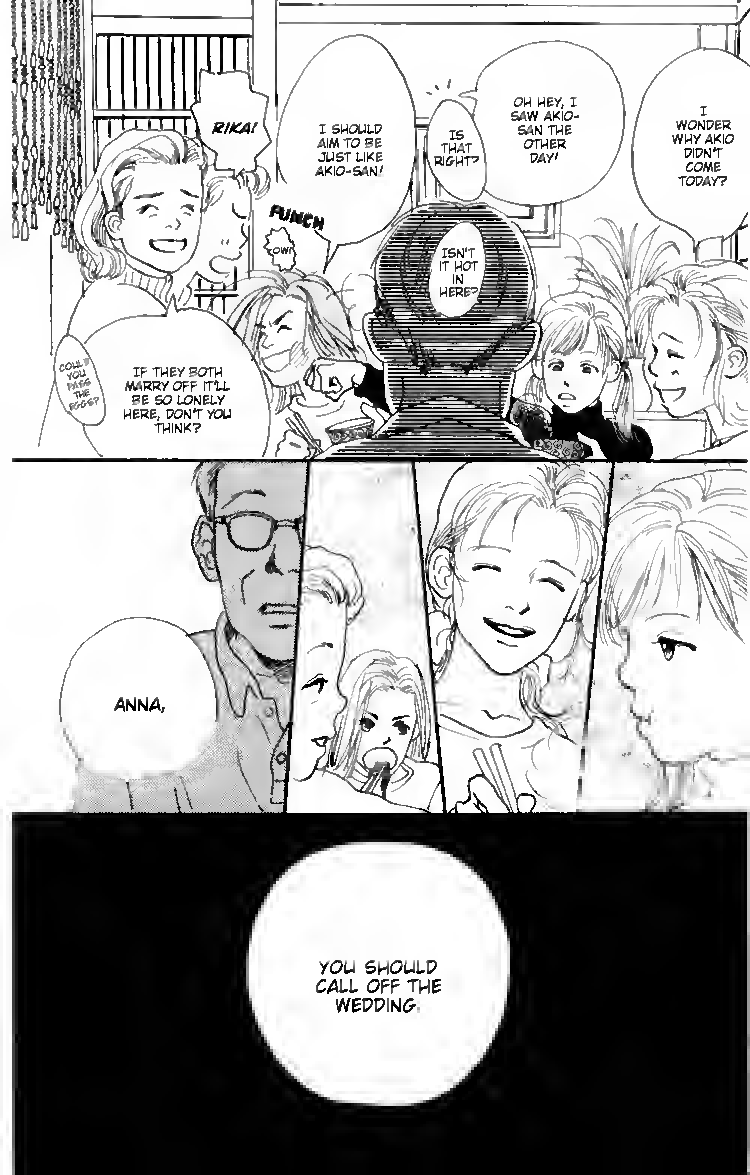
Sho~jo~!!
Sho~jo~!!'s garden~
ARE YOU COMING TOMORROW, TOO?
WHAT?
ARE YOU COMING TO OUR HOUSE TOMORROW?
I DON'T CARE, REALLY.
OH, BUT I MIGHT.
IF YOU SPEND SO MUCH TIME AT OUR HOUSE BEFORE YOU GUYS ARE EVEN MARRIED, WON'T YOU GET TIRED OF US?
WELL
I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY, YOU KNOW?
HUH?
HEY, DON'T TELL ME
THAT YOU'RE EYEING ON BECOMING A "MASUO-SAN" TYPE?
YOU JUST CAN'T.
YOU CAN'T.
AHAHA THAT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD!
IF YOU MOVE INTO OUR HOUSE,
THEN I'M GONNA MOVE OUT.


Why is it
that I'm here with him right now?
ask why?
Why doesn't he
And why...
do I
have to be sisters with my big sis?

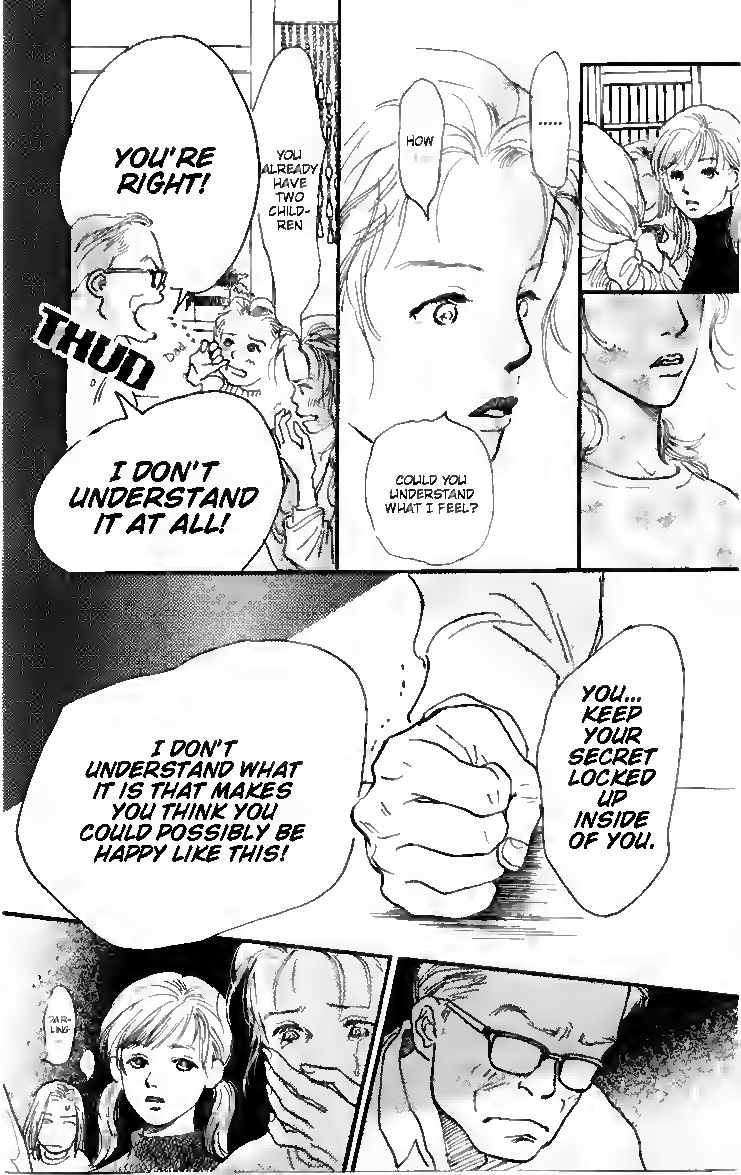
clang
clang
clang
clang
clang
clang
clang
clang
SHAKA
SHAKA
SLOW DAY TODAY
YEAH, IT'S BEEN SLOW FOR ME, TOO
WELL, MY WIFE SAID SHE'S GOING TO MAKE JAPANESE HOT-POT TODAY
OHHH! THAT SOUNDS DELICIOUS! WOULD YOU MIND IF I JOINED YOU?
DO YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK?
pi pi pi pi
cling cling
cling!
SHAKA SHAKA
.....
pi pi
rattle rattle
cling cling
rattle rattle
pi pi pi
pmg pmg
cling!
rattle rattle

SHE'LL MAKE A WONDERFUL WIFE.
AND A GREAT MOTHER
I'm sure of it!
(CHUCKLES)
DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT WITH HER?
I'D BETTER NOT.
SECOND THOUGHT
BUT ON
OH.
Hiahia
ARE YOU TAKING HER OUT ON ENOUGH DATES?
WORD OF ADVICE WOMEN ARE FULL OF REQUESTS, SEE?
AHAHA, BUT I'D SAY I'M THE MORE NEEDY ONE, THOUGH.
SO YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU PAY ATTENTION TO HER.
IS SHE REALLY NOW?
SHE'S CONSIDERATE THAT'S THE WORD!
SHE'S WHAT DO YOU CALL IT?
Hmm.

What do you mean "whoa?"
.....
WHOA!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT? I NEED A REASON TO COME AND SEE YOU?!
OF COURSE THAT'S A NO-BRAINER
I'M COMING IN!
MY, INO-KEN-KUN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
WHOA! THIS LOOKS AWESOME!
FOR THE LOVE OF GOD! HIDE THE MEAT!
rattle rattle
HEY, DAD'S BACK
Welcome Back!
...
HI THERE!
Don't be ridiculous
WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND HAVE DINNER WITH US?


RIKA!
PUNCH
OWW
I SHOULD AIM TO BE JUST LIKE AKIO-SAN!
IS THAT RIGHT?
OH HEY, I SAW AKIO-SAN THE OTHER DAY!
I WONDER WHY AKIO DIDN'T COME TODAY?
ISN'T IT HOT IN HERE?
COULD YOU PASS THE SODA?
IF THEY BOTH MARRY OFF IT'LL BE SO LONELY HERE, DON'T YOU THINK?
ANNA,
YOU SHOULD CALL OFF THE WEDDING.

.....
WHAT?
END OF DISCUSSION
JUST CALL IT OFF
clatter
WAI-
ARE YOU
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU COULD POSSIBLY BECOME A MARRIED COUPLE?
SO ASHAMED OF YOURSELF THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN...
DARLING,
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING AB-
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL HIM THE TRUTH,


YOU'RE RIGHT!
YOU ALREADY HAVE TWO CHILD-REN
THUD
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL!
HOW
.....
COULD YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I FEEL?
YOU... KEEP YOUR SECRET LOCKED UP INSIDE OF YOU.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU COULD POSSIBLY BE HAPPY LIKE THIS!
DARLING

My dad's eyes
were tinged with red
I'M SORRY
"HELLO"?
"LET'S MAKE A FAMILY TOGETHER"
WELL IT'S BECAUSE... DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO ME WHEN WE FIRST MET? YOUR VERY FIRST WORDS?
WHY YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THIS BEFORE!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT. I'M ASKING
SO YOU WANT KIDS AFTER ALL?
IMPORTANT FROM ME...?
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO KEEP SOMETHING SO
WHY?
.....
.....

IT'S BEEN PRESSING ON MY MIND THIS ENTIRE TIME!
AN ICE BREAKER?
BECAUSE YOU WERE DRUNK?
WELL IF YOU WERE SO BOTHERED BY IT, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST OPEN UP TO ME ABOUT IT?
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
E-Eff. And not like Fraymuno..?
I MIGHT'VE SAID THAT BECAUSE I WAS DRUNK... AND THE ATMOSPHERE CALLED FOR A BIT OF AN ICE BREAKER...
WELL...
I MEAN IT'S NOT LIKE WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT THIS TOPIC BEFORE
THAT'S RIGHT!
AND WHEN WE DID... YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HOW MUCH I HESITATED...
YOU'RE LYING!
I DID NOTICE!
I DID NOTICE! BUT WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID THEN, HUH? SHOULD I HAVE ASKED YOU STRAIGHT OUT:
"OH, ARE YOU NOT CAPABLE OF HAVING CHILDREN?!"
SLAP!

ANNA!
AND DON'T YOU DARE CALL ME!
ANNA
DON'T POINT YOUR FINGER AT ME!
I'M SORRY
....
.....
.....
HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE?
WHY? IT'S BECAUSE I'M SUPER WOMAN!
OH, I KNOW EVERY-THING
FLINCH

IS THAT RIGHT?
.....
WELL, GOOD FOR YOU
THUMP
STOP THIS
.....
RIKA
.....

I was so sure that I wouldn't cry... How stupid am I, huh?
WHAT DO YOU SAY
WE GO TO THAT CAPE?

thunk
rustle
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
rustle
WHEEZE
WHISTLE

exhale...
HOW DID YOU KNOW...
WANTED TO COME HERE?
THAT I
CHUCKLE!
HEY? WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THEN?
YEAH
ANNA SAID
"I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO IT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS JUST ONCE."
I KNEW BECAUSE
BACK WHEN WE CAME HERE DURING THE SUMMER, I REMEMBER HOW YOU WERE GAZING AT US
ENVIOUSLY FROM AFAR
whistle
I KNOW EVERYTHING
HUH?
WHY? IT'S BECAUSE I'M SUPER NII-CHAN!
And don't even get me started on how the Supermarket's Nii san!
LAME!
LIKE I SAID, LAME
Hey, I'm just dish me back to you what you dished me.

That's about as deep as romantic movies go for you in real life
OR SO SHE SAID!
That's why I remembered it!
....
WERE YOU SHOCKED
THAT MY SISTER
YEAH,
BUT WHAT HURT ME THE MOST WAS THAT SHE KEPT IT A SECRET FROM ME.

I REALLY WANTED TO TRASH THAT PLACE UP, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU!
I GOT SO ANGRY, AS WELL AS SAD
IN A PLACE LIKE THAT...
I HAD TO HEAR ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT FROM YOUR FATHER
I WONDERED WHY
SNAP
turns away
pat pat
Ahaha
SHUT UP! I'M NOT TELLING YOU!
I WANT TO HEAR SOME OF THOSE STORIES!
OHHHHH?!
BUT I'LL NEVER TELL YOU!
OHHH?
I HAVE A HUGE SECRET!
HUH?
THEN I WON'T TELL YOU EITHER!
HM, I PROBABLY HAVE AN IDEA
THE VERY FACT THAT SHE KEPT IT A SECRET FROM ME
MEANT THAT SHE WAS SCARED I'D RUN OFF IF SHE TOLD ME, DOESN'T IT?
UGH! THAT REALLY PISSES ME OFF!
AND THERE I WAS TELLING HER ABOUT ALL THE EMBARRASSING STUFF THAT HAPPENED TO ME IN THE PAST
I told her this and that and all sorts of things

That there are some bad guys out there...
WATCHING US, YOU KNOW?
that are capable of doing some really evil things... Things you wouldn't believe, all without even batting an eyelash
NO ONE'S
Well you should know...
rustle
Become a bad guy for me...!

splash

splash

CRASH

CHIRP
CHIRP
TO FUKUOKA?!
YOU'RE BEING TRANSFERRED?

THAT'S RIGHT!
WE'RE SO GLAD WE DIDN'T GET AN APART-MENT HERE!
I WOULD'VE JUST DIED IF WE HAD TO MOVE JUST AS WE WERE SETTLING DOWN IN A NEW PLACE.
SO WHEN IS THE BIG MOVE?
THE FIRST OF NEXT MONTH.
UGH, THINGS ARE GOING TO BE SO HECTIC... AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD START SETTLING DOWN, TOO...
In March,
they got married without any problems.
YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS
AKIO-KUN LIKES THESE, DOESN'T HE?
OH, YEAH! THANKS! YOU'RE A LIFE SAVER!
Huh?
Ishonna Scans

My big sis seems to be enjoying her life as a married woman

And as for 'that guy?' He didn't become a Masuo-san type

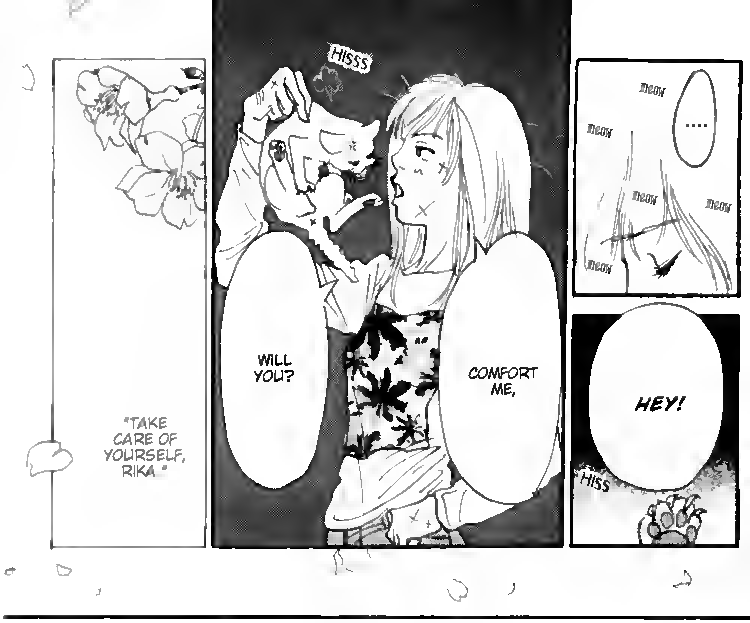
So I didn't have to move out, after all

To be honest though, I never planned on moving out in the first place

And besides even if I had wanted to it's not like I actually could have, anyway

Vroooom
rustle
rustle
WELL
THERE THEY GO
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY?
WHY'D HE ONLY SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?!
HEY, HEY!
SLAM
.....
HEY
MEOW
I didn't end up sharing a secret with "that guy."
In the end,
Hey! A kitty!

splash



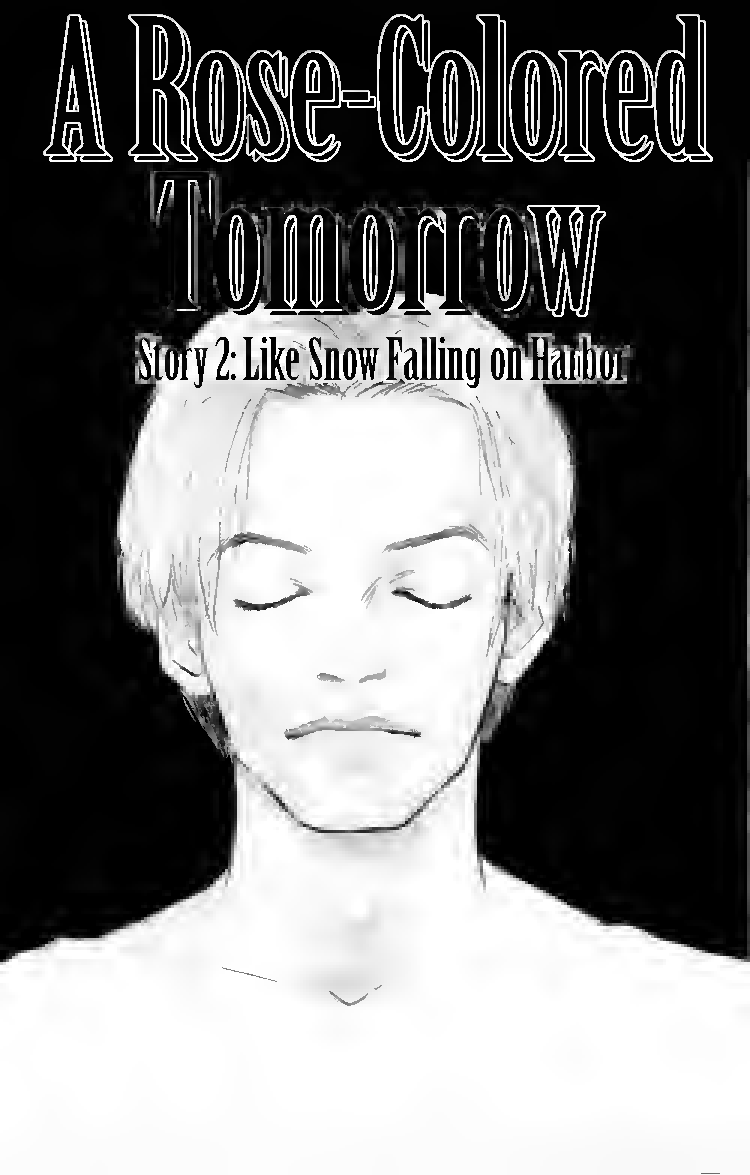
One of these days, I really should go and check it out.

Apparently, their dining table at their new place is really cozy with the warm sunlight pouring in from the window.

<THE END>

A Rose-Colored Tomorrow

Story 2: Like Snow Falling on Harbor



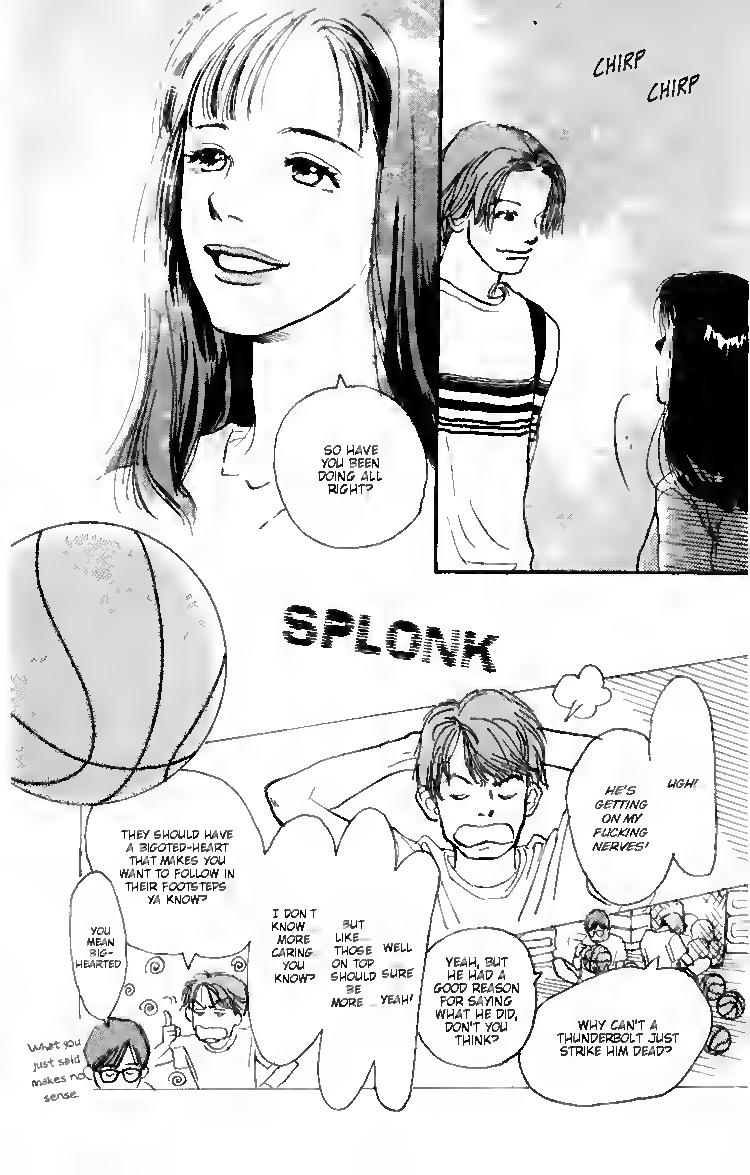
The car crashed right in front of my very eyes.

The ones in the car were Shirojima Atsushi, who attended the same university as me, and Kurita Sayoko.

weee
wooo
weee
wooo
weee
wooo

Ever since I started university, I've been caught up in a tornado of drinking parties. Now combine that with the fact that I can't hold my alcohol very well, and my tendency to get pretty wild at karaoke joints.
Plus I'm really tired of having a name that doesn't match my face
It was just when I started thinking: This wasn't the reason why I entered university!
That I reunited with Senpai
.....
.....
but she took one look at me.
I don't know why
—YORI?

...and started laughing her head off!
She's laughing so hard that she's crying!
AHA
IT'S YORI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I GO TO SCHOOL HERE
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S REALLY YOU!
HA HA HA
WHAT WAS IT LIKE? LIKE TWO YEARS?
TWO YEARS AND THREE MONTHS
aha ha ha
WHEN'D YOU GET SO BIG?!
I'M NOT DONE YET!
I'M STILL GROWING
ARE YOU STILL PLAYING BASKET BALL?
OH, NOPE WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M NOT EITHER CHUCKLES
YOU SHOULD, THOUGH IT MIGHT HELP YOU GROW TALLER
152cm
AHAHA LIKE THAT'S GOING TO WORK NOW!

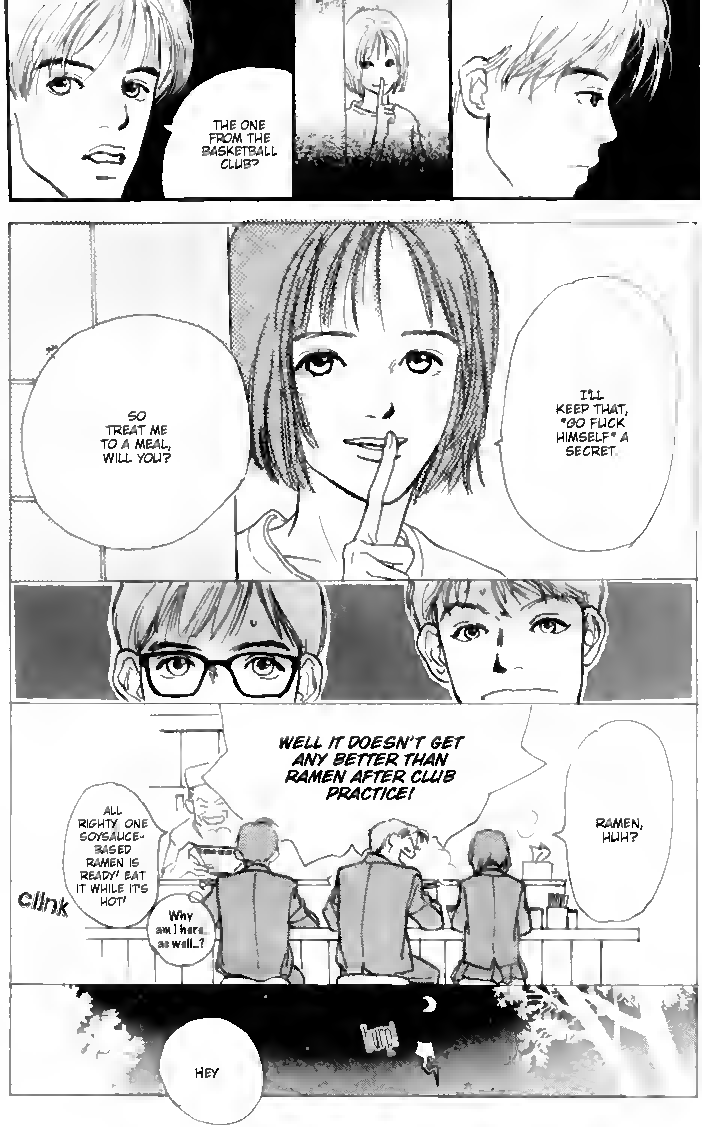

CHIRP
CHIRP
SO HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL RIGHT?
SPLONK
UGH!
HE'S GETTING ON MY FUCKING NERVES!
WHY CAN'T A THUNDERBOLT JUST STRIKE HIM DEAD?
YEAH, BUT HE HAD A GOOD REASON FOR SAYING WHAT HE DID, DON'T YOU THINK?
WELL
SURE
YEAH!
BUT LIKE... THOSE ON TOP SHOULD BE MORE...
I DON'T KNOW MORE CARING YOU KNOW?
THEY SHOULD HAVE A BIGOTED-HEART THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS YA KNOW?
YOU MEAN BIG-HEARTED
What you just said makes no sense

WELL... WHATEVER! HE CAN JUST...
GO FUCK HIMSELF !!!
HE
CAN
clatter

ACCHAN!
ACCHAN!
NOISE
NOISE

BUT WOULD YOU MIND LETTING ME BORROW YOUR NOTES FOR ECONOMY CLASS?
FIVE BUCKS A PAGE
HEY, COME ON, DON'T BE A CHEAP-ASS, ACCHAN
Are that's freeking expensive!
I never knew the kanji for your name was supposed to mean "pay" as in "to rely on"
ESPE-CIALLY WHEN YOU'RE ASKING SOMETHING OF ME
WOULD YOU STOP IT WITH THE "ACCHAN" BUSINESS?
SORRY.
Acchan went to the same high school as me. He's really smart.
so it's a miracle that I managed to get into the same school as him.
He's on scholarship though so he has a lot of stuff that he has to do,
and so he doesn't have much time to hang out with me anymore.
BY THE WAY, ACCHAN...
WHAT ARE YOU A RAKUGO-KA?*
DO YOU REMEMBER KURITA-SENPAI?

*rakugo ka = professional storyteller


THE ONE FROM THE BASKETBALL CLUB?
SO TREAT ME TO A MEAL, WILL YOU?
I'LL KEEP THAT, "GO FUCK HIMSELF" A SECRET.
WELL IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN RAMEN AFTER CLUB PRACTICE!
RAMEN, HUH?
ALL RIGHTY. ONE SOYSAUCE-BASED RAMEN IS READY! EAT IT WHILE IT'S HOT!
clink
Why am I here... as well...?
HEY

ISN'T THAT JUST A CAR?
NO,
THAT'S THE SPIRIT OF THE DEAD
IT'S JUST THE PHOSPHOR IN THE AIR OXIDIZING.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A WILL-O'-THE-WISP.
IT'S PHOSPHOR.
THERE'S A WILL-O'-THE-WISP
HUH?!
NO WAY! WHERE?!
SEE? OVER THERE!
HUH, I DON'T SEE IT!
IT'S RIGHT THERE
WELL AREN'T YOU THE RESIDENT BORE...?
YOU, YOU TOO?!

Senpai was small and thin.

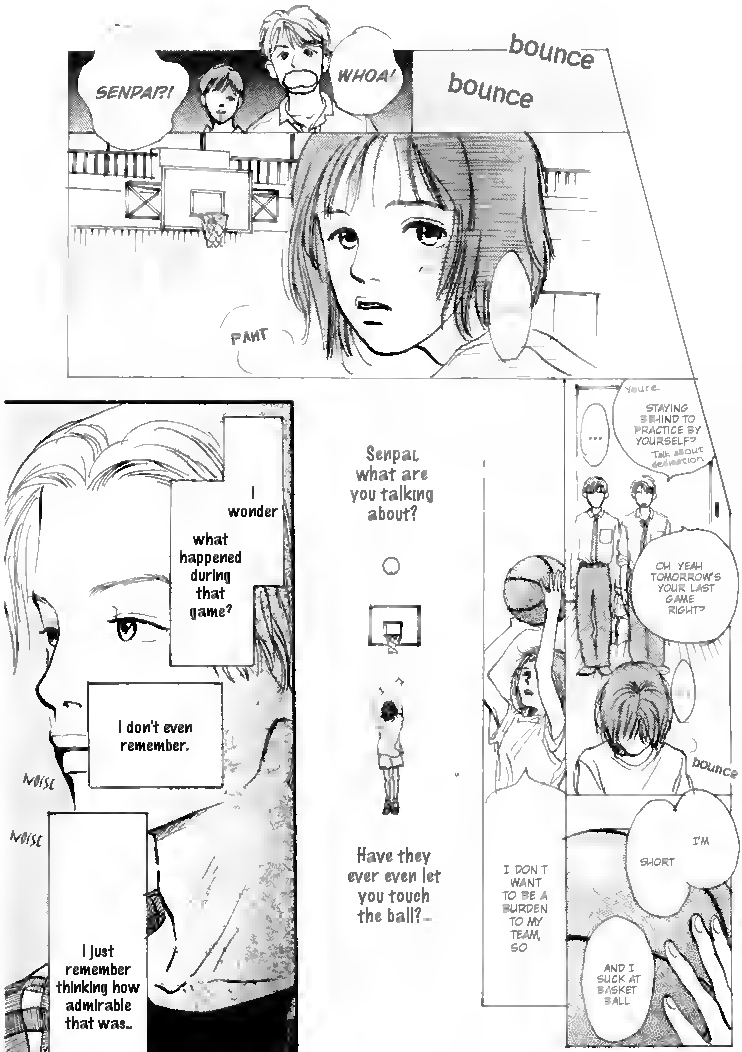
Watching her run with her skinny legs and skinny arms...

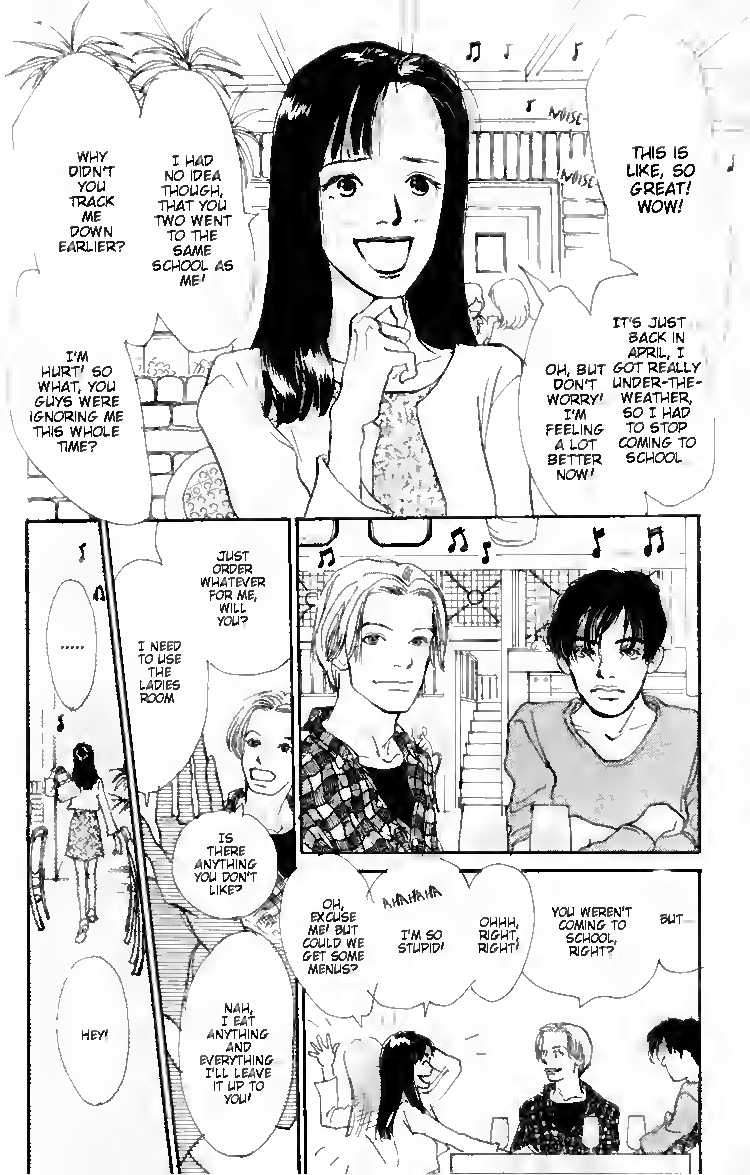
It was really cute to watch.

Whenever the ball was in her hands it looked two times as big

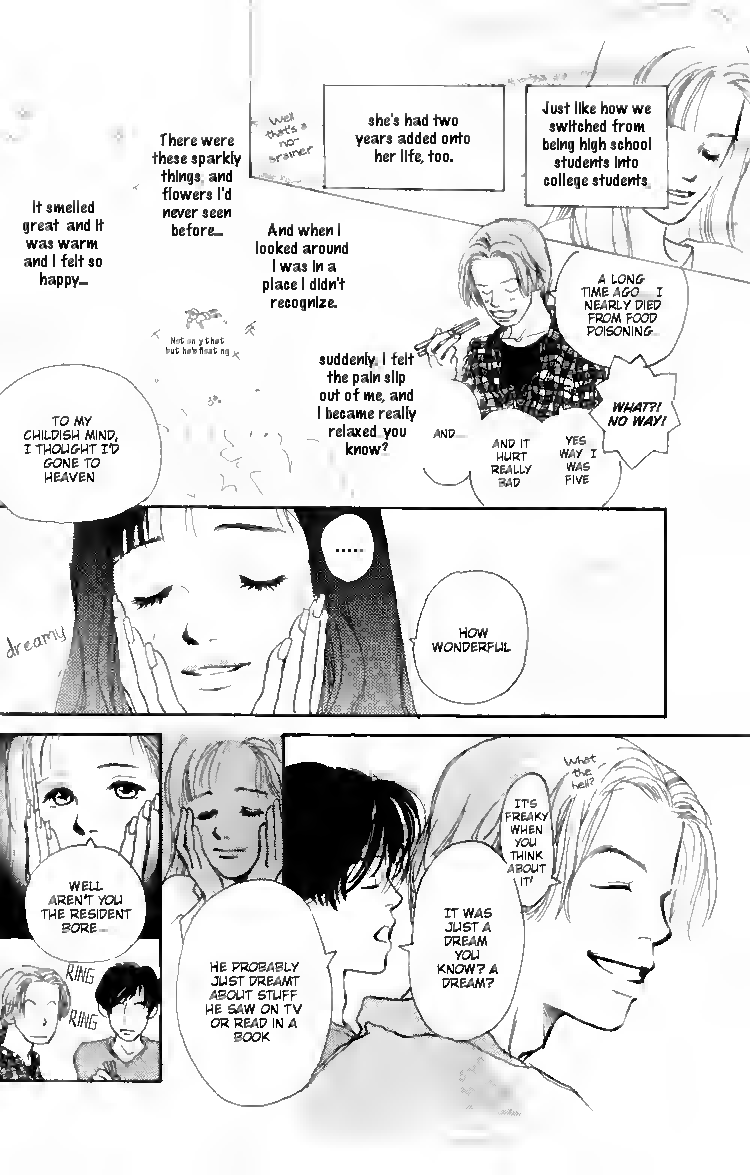
and the goal was twice as far for her.

GUESS WHO?
(HUKKLE)
FLIP
YORI!
CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR!
IT WAS MY VOICE, BUT ACCHAN'S HANDS!
LONG TIME NO SEE.
NO WAY...!
HEY! YEAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
HEY, ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW, SENPAI?
WANT TO GO OUT DRINKING?
YOU KNOW, JUST THE THREE OF US?
SO YOU GUYS STILL HANG OUT TOGETHER, HUH?


SENPAI?!
WHOA!
bounce
bounce
PANT
I wonder what happened during that game?
I don't even remember.
WHISK
WHISK
I just remember thinking how admirable that was..
Senpai, what are you talking about?
Have they ever even let you touch the ball?
I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO MY TEAM, SO
I'M SHORT
AND I SUCK AT BASKET BALL
bounce
OH YEAH TOMORROW'S YOUR LAST GAME RIGHT?
...
STAYING BEHIND TO PRACTICE BY YOURSELF?
Talk about dedication.

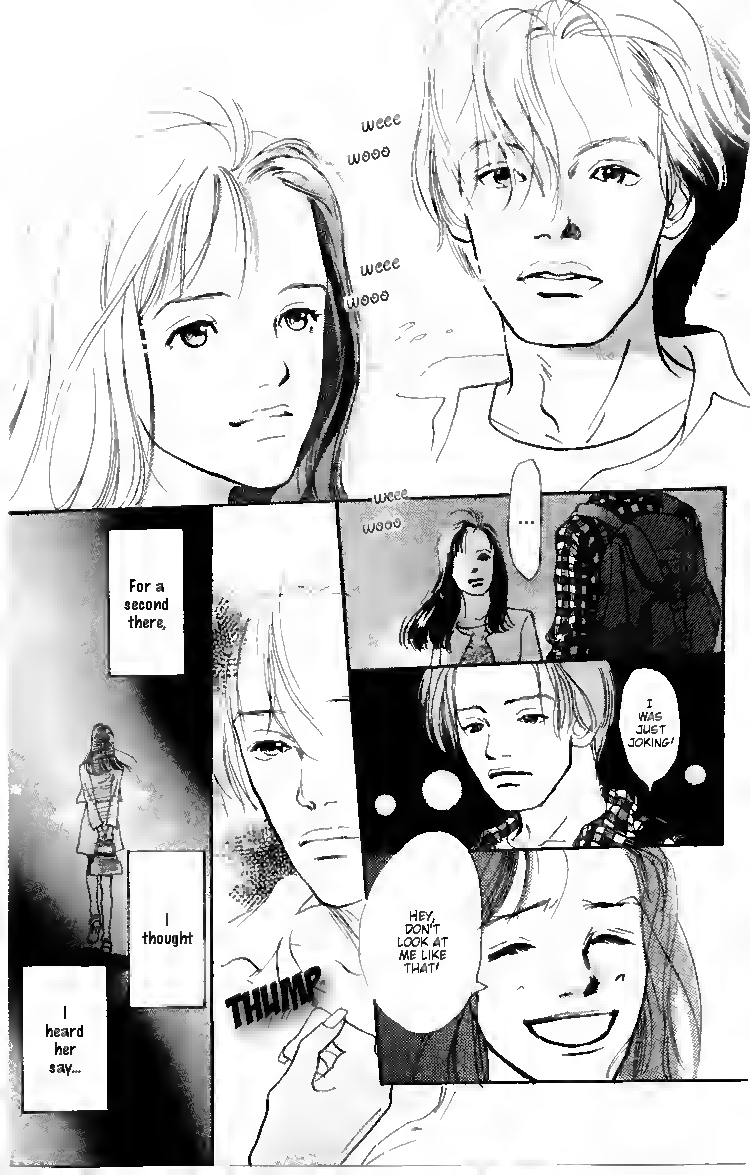

WHY DIDN'T YOU TRACK ME DOWN EARLIER?
I HAD NO IDEA THOUGH, THAT YOU TWO WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS ME!
THIS IS LIKE, SO GREAT! WOW!
I'M HURT! SO WHAT, YOU GUYS WERE IGNORING ME THIS WHOLE TIME?
OH, BUT DON'T WORRY! I'M FEELING A LOT BETTER NOW!
IT'S JUST BACK IN APRIL, I GOT REALLY UNDER-THE-WEATHER, SO I HAD TO STOP COMING TO SCHOOL
.....
I NEED TO USE THE LADIES ROOM
JUST ORDER WHATEVER FOR ME, WILL YOU?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DON'T LIKE?
HEY!
NAH, I EAT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU!
OH, EXCUSE ME! BUT COULD WE GET SOME MENUS?
AHAHAHA
I'M SO STUPID!
OHHH, RIGHT, RIGHT!
YOU WEREN'T COMING TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?
BUT

IT MADE ME REALLY FEEL THE TWO YEAR GAP, YOU KNOW?
YEAH, I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING EVER SINCE I RAN INTO HER AGAIN...
HOLD UP
WAS SHE LIKE THIS BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL?
WHAT? IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
O... N-
NOISE
NOISE
OH...
DO YOU BOTH HAVE GIRLFRIENDS?
YEP, I PICKED HER UP!
ahAhAa
BUT HE'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND WHO'S ATTENDING A TWO YEAR COLLEGE BACK IN OUR HOMETOWN
I DON'T,
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU YORI.
AHA HA HA HA!
HUH, WHAT'S THAT?
SENPAI,
HAVE YOU SEEN ANY WILL-O'-THE-WISP SINCE THEN?

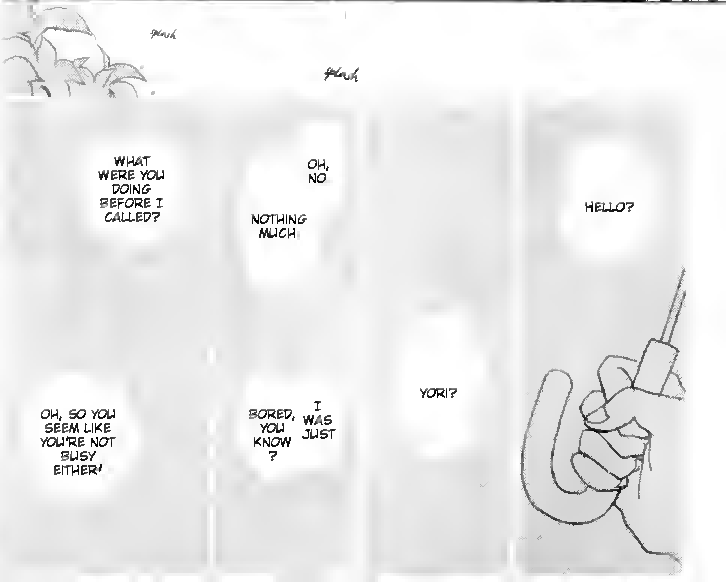

Just like how we switched from being high school students into college students
she's had two years added onto her life, too.
Well that's a no-brainer
A LONG TIME AGO... I NEARLY DIED FROM FOOD POISONING
WHAT?! NO WAY!
AND...
AND IT HURT REALLY BAD
YES WAY I WAS FIVE
suddenly, I felt the pain slip out of me, and I became really relaxed, you know?
Not only that, but he's flirting
There were these sparkly things, and flowers I'd never seen before...
It smelled great and it was warm and I felt so happy...
And when I looked around I was in a place I didn't recognize.
TO MY CHILDISH MIND, I THOUGHT I'D GONE TO HEAVEN
dreamy
.....
HOW WONDERFUL
What the hell?
IT'S FREAKY WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT?
IT WAS JUST A DREAM YOU KNOW? A DREAM?
HE PROBABLY JUST DREAMT ABOUT STUFF HE SAW ON TV OR READ IN A BOOK
WELL AREN'T YOU THE RESIDENT BORE...
RING
RING

YEAH
SEE YOU LATER.
NAH. NO SWEAT
RIGHT. SORRY
OH~
HELLO?
RING RING
rustle rustle
MY BAD
clatter
SORRY,
BUT I HAVE TO GET TO WORK.
SORR-
OH, RIGHT.
SORRY
HUH?
NO WAY! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHY? I HAVE TO WOR-
YOU'LL FIND ME HERE.
HE NEEDS TO WORK TO SUPPORT HIMSELF, YOU KNOW?
RING RING
UGH, SHUT THE FUCK UP!

SENPAI
YOU'D ALREADY GRADUATED
SO YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...
BUT EVER SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE KID, HIS FAMILY WAS ALWAYS A PIT... OFF, YOU KNOW?
AND WHEN HIS FATHER'S COMPANY WENT BANKRUPT, HIS FAMILY SPLIT UP. HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HIS MOTHER IS,
BEC-AUSE SHE'S MISSING
HIS FATHER'S HEALTH BECAME VERY FRAIL,
SO WE HAD TO QUIT THE TEAM SOON AFTER WE STARTED ELEVENTH GRADE
HE ALMOST DIDN'T EVEN GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, BUT A RELATIVE HELPED HIM OUT...
WHAT ABOUT COLLEGE THEN?
HE'S ON A SCHOLARSHIP
BECAUSE HE'S SMART LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW?
SO THAT'S WHY HE DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO HANG OUT AND GOOF OFF LIKE I DO
OH...
THE WAY OF THE CROSS...
HUH?
OH, SO YOU'VE BEEN GOOFING OFF?
WHAT'S THAT?
HEY!
HEY!
HEY!
WHAT'S YOUR GIRL-FRIEND LIKE?
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
DON'T YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME?


Weee
Wooo
Weee
Wooo
Weee
Wooo
...
I WAS JUST JOKING!
HEY, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
THUMP
For a second there,
I thought
I heard her say...

.....
She really shouldn't go around saying that, though... I, uh, only a guy after all...
THUMP
Just joking~
You never know~
.....
.....
.....
It's just... I never thought I'd hear her say something like that... Not in a million years.


WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE I CALLED?
OH, NO
NOTHING MUCH.
HELLO?
OH, SO YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE NOT BUSY EITHER!
BORED, YOU KNOW?
I WAS JUST
YORI?

I GO OUT DRINKING BY MYSELF A LOT
NOPE, I WENT BY MYSELF
YEP, HIS WORK-PLACE
I WENT TO ACCHAN'S PLACE
THE OTHER DAY
CHUCKLES
YOU THINK THAT'S COOL?
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED THE NIGHT RAIN
BUT, YOU KNOW?
IT'S RAINING PRETTY HARD, HUH?
YEAH
I FEEL REALLY AT EASE WHEN IT'S RAINING
AND IT HELPS ME SLEEP
IT'S REALLY GENTLE, YOU KNOW?
IT'S LIKE A LULLABY TO ME
YEAH
was always alone.
Senpai

I HAVE NO HOME TO GO BACK TO
ACCHAN, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE DOING?!
pats
SUMMER HAS FINALLY COME!
Yay!
Yay!
ARE YOU GOING BACK HOME?
YEAH
YO!!
See you!
"FEEL FREE TO CALL ME
WHENEVER YOU GET LONELY!"
Whoa!
Aha
haha
SO WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO BE COOPED UP IN YOUR APARTMENT
YEAH, THE WHOLE TIME?
AND BESIDES, I HAVE WORK
FEEL FREE TO CALL ME WHENEVER YOU GET LONELY!
.....
.....
HEY, YOU'RE GETTING GOOSE-BUMPS!
...
RUNE

JUST HOP ON A TRAIN AND GET YOUR ASS DOWN HERE!
You'll be able to get here in two hours
OH... BUT I'M AT MY PARENT'S PLACE RIGHT NOW...
YES, MA'AM!
I'M AT ACCHAN'S WORK PLACE RIGHT NOW. SO GET YOUR BUTT DOWN HERE!
AH, YEAH! ERR...
YORI?!
IT'S ME, SENPAI!
YES?!
But why?!
Whoa!
WELCOME!
YOU REALLY DID GET HERE IN TWO HOURS...
THAT'S AMAZING
CHUCKLES
W-WHERE'S SENPAI ?
PANT
PANT
PANT
NIKE
SHE GOT TIRED FROM WAITING FOR YOU
SNORE
.....
NIKE
Apparently the side of his stomach started to hurt

YORI
YEAH?
I WAS JUST DREAMING
ATSUSHI
YOU CAN GO FOR TODAY
Hmmh
AH YES
IT WAS SNOW-ING
AND
IT WAS REALLY COLD
Sigh
She still looks like she's dreaming
SHIVERS
I FELT REALLY SAD
OH!
HEY, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO SOMEWHERE?
HUH?
SOMEWHERE FUN AND
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SOMEWHERE FUN!
KCHOO!
AKCHOOO!
HEY COME ON NOW YOU'RE A GIRL, REMEMBER?
YEAH THEY'VE GOT THE AIR CONDITIONER CRANKED UP TO THE MAX IN HERE
HUH?
What smell?
THAT SMELLS GREAT HUH?
AND HAPPY PLACE
A WARM
SNIFF

later
shalla
JUST FORGET IT
.....
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE
TENS AND THOUSANDS AND MILLIONS OF GUYS OUT THERE IN THE WORLD
BUT NOT A SINGLE ONE EVER LOVES ME
SHE'S DRUNK
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME
.....
So what...
Did I screw them for...?
ME
WHAT?
DON'T TOUCH ME

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
I HATE YOU BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS ACT SO HIGH-AND-MIGHTY!
I
DON'T LIKE YOU
IS THAT RIGHT?
Well then
THE EXIT IS THIS WAY
THUD
YOU THINK
YOU'RE THE GREATEST AND SMARTEST GUY IN THIS WHOLE WIDE WORLD, DON'T YOU?!
I HATE YOU

NOISE
THUD
That was the only time I saw her
slurp slurp ....
...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
SWISH SWISH
MY!
KIDS THESE DAYS HAVE NO MANNERS
YOU'RE SPILLING IT! LOOK!
You should wipe it down
DO YOU WANT ME TO HIT YOU?
Oh, I apologize.
that entire Summer.
NOISE
SHE
CAME TO MY WORKPLACE AGAIN
SHE GOT DEAD DRUNK, GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH SOME OLD GEEZER AND THEN SHE KICKED THE VENDING MACHINE SO HARD THAT THE GLASS CRACKED
SHE WENT HOME IN A GOOD MOOD, THOUGH
YOU'RE REALLY GETTING ON MY NERVES. YOU KNOW THAT?
slurp
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A HANDFUL, DARLING!
.....
WHOA

click
IT'S CLEAR AS DAY...
Yeah it is!
SHE DOESN'T LIKE YOU.
SHE DID, THOUGH REMEMBER HOW SHE TOLD YOU THAT SHE HATED YOU?
IF SHE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, SHE SHOULD JUST SAY IT!
WHAT'S WITH HER, ANYWAY?
ahaha
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE IN THE MINORITY
WHY COMPLAIN ABOUT SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE DO FOR THEMSELVES ?!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
MOST PEOPLE WANT TO COMPLAIN.
BECAUSE YOU NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
BUT WHY?
AND YOU NEVER COMPLAIN EITHER
YORI
That Senpai said it—
CHUCKLES
DON'T TELL ME YOU FELL FOR HER?
HOW SHE SAID NO GUY WILL EVER LOVE HER?
YOU HEARD HER, DIDN'T YOU?
That Senpai—

STUDYING THEN WORKING, STUDYING THEN WORKING.
YOU'LL SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFE
There Aishiteru
What's wrong, ani?
AND WHEN YOU DIE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL ALONE!
W-
ATSUSHI,
slap
MARK MY WORDS YOU'LL NEVER BE IN A RELATIONSHIP!
NO, THE ONE THAT SHOULD SHUT UP IS YOUR CELLPHONE!
RING
SHUT UP! DROP DEAD, RETARD!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DIE, HUH?!
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
and we didn't realize what was really important—
we were both blockheads.
The thing is,
that the one who would die alone would be Senpai.

501
Kurita Sayoko
HOSPITAL

chirp
ARE YOU
COLORADO STATE
STUPID OR WHAT ?
.....
chirp
Ishouyo
Scans

Her neighbors complained that the cat was meowing in a really strange way,

so the apartment manager went and unlocked the door.

was the cat she had for a pet in her apartment.

The one who set off the alarm.

She washed down the pills with alcohol.

They were sleeping pills that she had saved

were the ones she got from the psychiatrist she'd been seeing for a while just before she reunited with us.

The pills that she took...

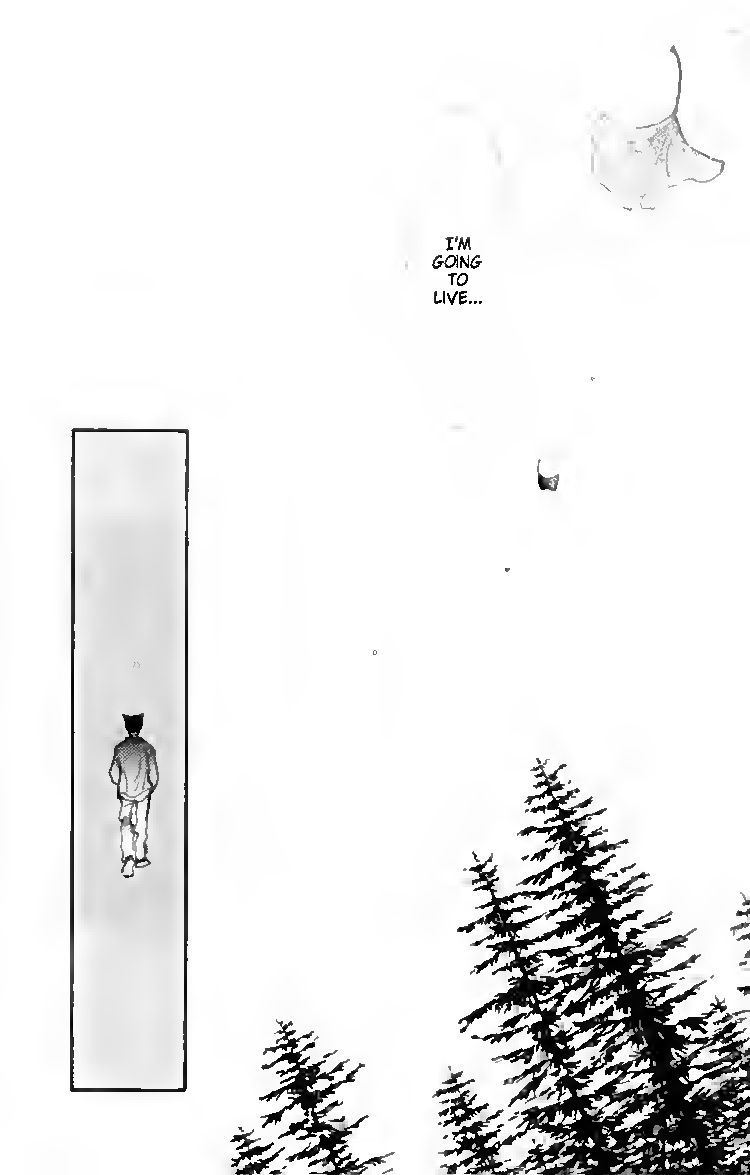
because she couldn't sleep.

The reason why she did it was...

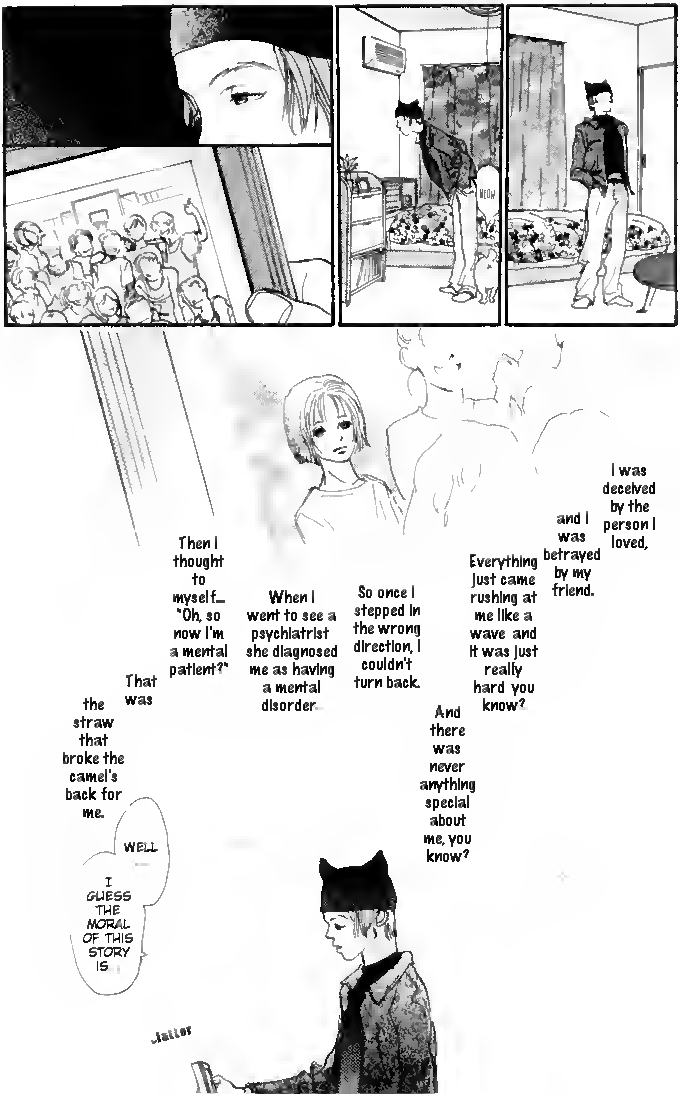
IF YOU HAD DIED FROM THIS...
YOU KNOW ...
YORI...
YOUR STUPID CAT WOULD'VE STARVED TO DEATH BY NOW!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
.....
GO AND FEED MY CAT FOR ME...?
COULD YOU
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
W-
WHAT
AND YOU SHOULDN'T LIE, EITHER
YOU SHOULDN'T REFER TO YOUR SENPAI AS "YOU" IT'S RUDE
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.
THAT SMELLS GREAT"
AND HAPPY PLACE...
"A WARM...

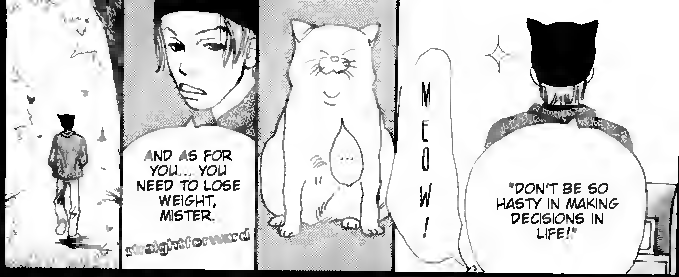
Y-
HOW WONDERFUL
PEOPLE WHO COMMIT SUICIDE CAN'T GO THERE.
YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
I GUESS YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ON LIVING.
TOO BAD FOR YOU.

IT WAS LIKE THE TV SWITCH HAD BEEN TURNED OFF AND THE IMAGES IN FRONT OF MY EYES DISAPPEARED
THE COLORS, THE LIGHT, THE SOUNDS, MY LIFE
THEY ALL ENDED WITH THE FLICK OF A SWITCH
I WAS ENVELOPED IN DARKNESS
WHEN I
LOST CONSCIOUSNESS
.....
DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT EVER AGAIN
I


I'M
GOING
TO
LIVE...

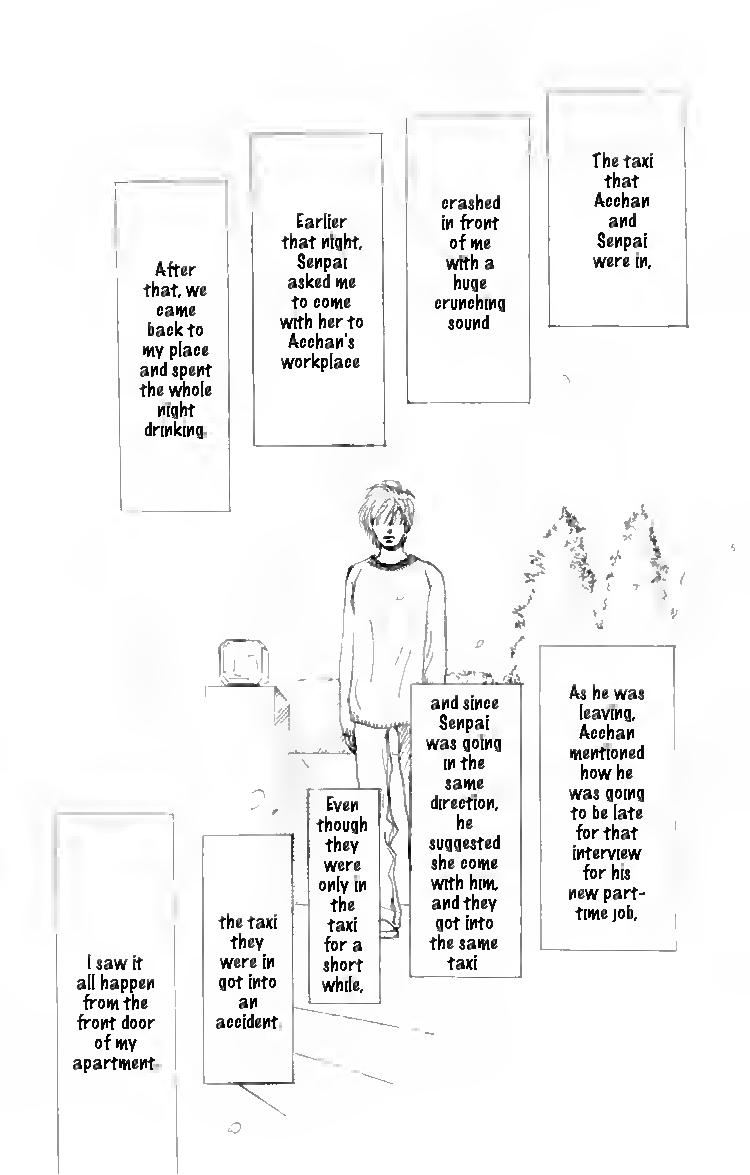
click
DASHES
click
Kuri
clank
clank
clank
jiggle
MEOW!!!
He's a bit scared
MUNCH
CRUNCH
SMACK
MUNCH
Geez_ What's she been feeding this fatso anyway
Oh, I guess this is the stuff
MEOW!!!
OK, OK, HOLD YOUR HORSES GEEZ
MEOW!!!
.....
Whoa
YOU MUST BE
MEOW!!!
D Damn you th nk you're a better cat next carnival for a fat s
MEOW
MEOW
(Note: There's only one cat.)

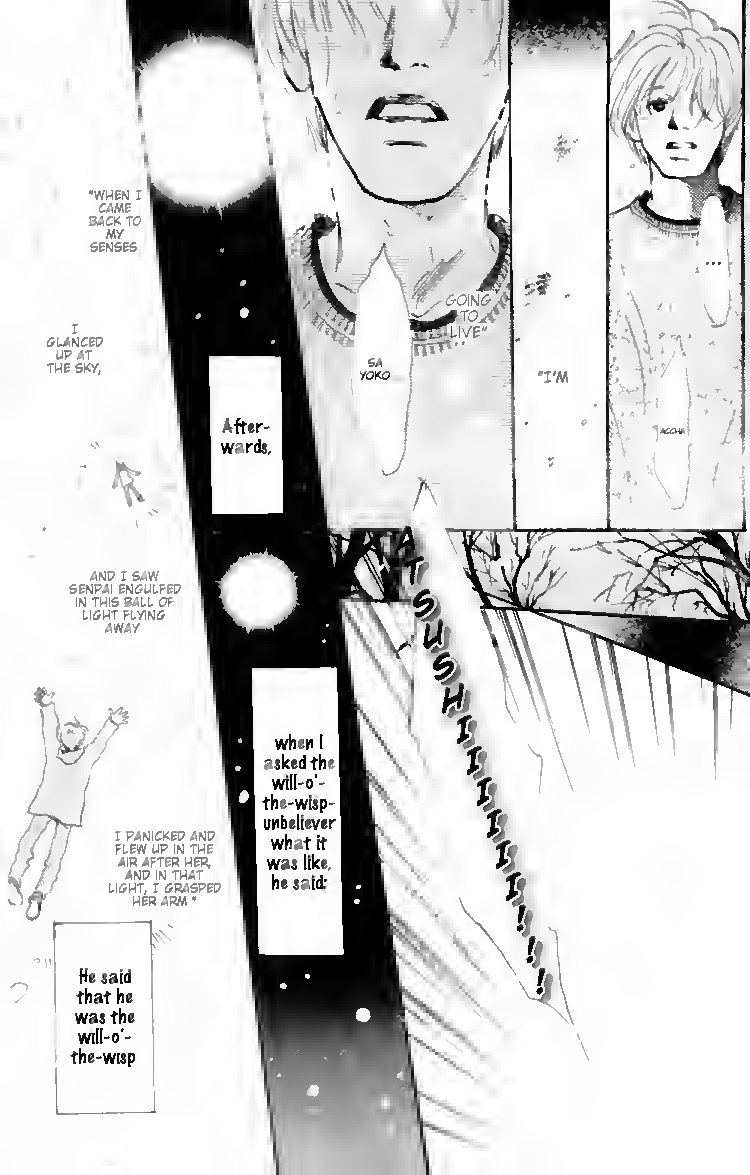

WOW
I was deceived by the person I loved,
and I was betrayed by my friend.
Everything just came rushing at me like a wave and it was just really hard you know?
And there was never anything special about me, you know?
So once I stepped in the wrong direction, I couldn't turn back.
When I went to see a psychiatrist she diagnosed me as having a mental disorder.
Then I thought to myself... "Oh, so now I'm a mental patient?"
That was the straw that broke the camel's back for me.
WELL...
I GUESS THE MORAL OF THIS STORY IS
Jailor



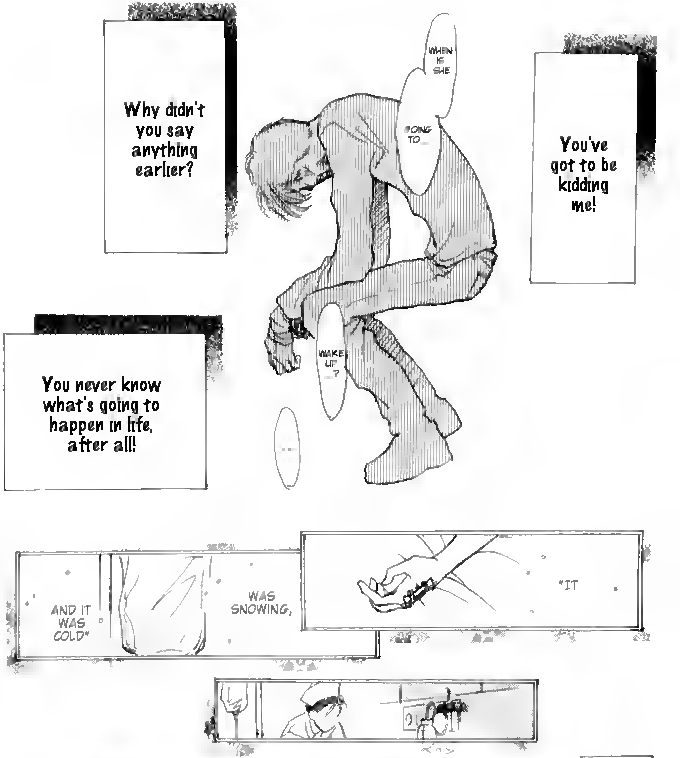
The day that it happened.

it was snowing really early for that time of the year.


After that, we came back to my place and spent the whole night drinking.
Earlier that night, Senpai asked me to come with her to Acchan's workplace
crashed in front of me with a huge crunching sound
The taxi that Acchan and Senpai were in,
As he was leaving, Acchan mentioned how he was going to be late for that interview for his new part-time job,
and since Senpai was going in the same direction, he suggested she come with him, and they got into the same taxi
Even though they were only in the taxi for a short while,
the taxi they were in got into an accident
I saw it all happen from the front door of my apartment

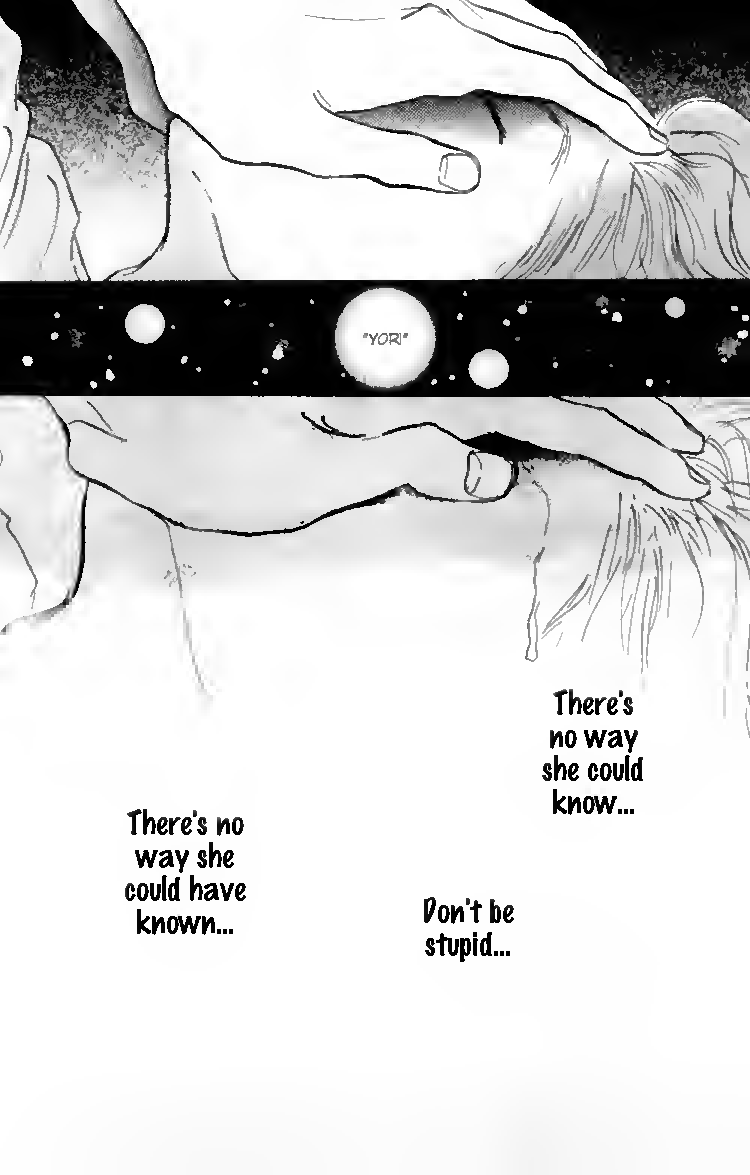

"WHEN I CAME BACK TO MY SENSES
I GLANCED UP AT THE SKY,
SA YOKO
GOING TO LIVE"
"I'M
...
ACCHI
After-wards,
AND I SAW SENPAI ENGULFED IN THIS BALL OF LIGHT FLYING AWAY
TSUSHIIIIII!!!
when I asked the will-o'-the-wisp-unbeliever what it was like, he said:
I PANICKED AND FLEW UP IN THE AIR AFTER HER, AND IN THAT LIGHT, I GRASPED HER ARM "
He said that he was the will-o'-the-wisp

If we compare this to a fairy-tale,
I guess you could say she's waiting for the Prince's kiss to wake her
on the white sheets of a hospital bed
She's sleeping right now
WELL, LOOK AT IT THIS WAY!
SHE'S PRETTY GUTSY, YOU KNOW?
LIKE HOW BEFORE HER LAST MATCH, SHE SPENT HOURS PRACTICING BY HERSELF
OH, I'M NOT SURE IF YOU REMEMBER THIS,
BUT SHE NEVER EVEN GOT TO TOUCH THE BALL IN AN ACTUAL GAME, YOU KNOW?
WELL, ANYWAY, YEAH SO SHE'S STRONG LIKE THAT
HMM WHAT HAPPENED DURING THAT GAME, ANYWAY?
"SHE WAS SWITCHED OUT WITH FOUR MINUTES LEFT TO GO
SHE NEVER ONCE GOT TO TOUCH THE BALL."
YORI,
IT
WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FOR ME
whistle


Why didn't you say anything earlier?
WHEN IS SHE GONE TO...
You've got to be kidding me!
WAKE UP...?
You never know what's going to happen in life, after all!
AND IT WAS COLD"
WAS SNOWING,
"IT
I'm sure she's not shivering in the dark.
so I'm sure she's not in that darkness that engulfed her the first time around
she always looks so peaceful.
every time I come to see her,
But

HELLO?
OH.
I'M JUST HEADING BACK RIGHT NOW
ahahaha
RING RING
OH!
AH
ERR
UM
ahahaha
Yori!
See you later!
RING RING RING
BYE!
SEE YOU
I'm
Matsunami Yori
nineteen years old
I'm just your ordinary, happy-go-lucky college student.

YORI,
I ALWAYS KNEW
HOW MUCH YOU TRULY LIKED ME.
whistle
ashiomi

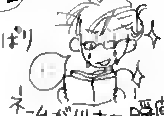

"YORI"
There's no way she could know...
There's no way she could have known...
Don't be stupid...

I'm sure one day she'll open her eyes,
and we'll be able to smile at each other
If it means she'll be happy from the bottom of her heart,
if their futures
will be something bright
I don't mind
if the path I walk down from now on,
turns into the way of the Cross
I'll pray for you
<THE END>

ハイ また こんにちは〜〜

ドンドン パフパフ

それで私はやっぱり

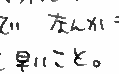


ネームが出来た瞬間
私のネームはちがネーム

が一番好きで この時点で
私のまんがづくりの90%は
終っています。
95%かもしれない。99%かもしれない。

なのでその後の原稿描きは
とてもとても めんどくさいです。ってこんなこと言っていいのかしら？
まんが家さんで「ペン入れが好き」と言う方がタマにいますが私は
下絵もペン入れも きらいだなあ だって疲れるんだもん
何がきらいって あのう、やっちゃいますけど私 少女まんが家のくせに
髪のもとか目とか描くの大きらいで なんかもう、髪のもなんて
きらいなあまりペンの走るのが早いこと早いこと。
トーンとかも最初は楽しくてはってるけど やっぱやんなるし。
ケシゴムとベタはうちのねいちゃんがやってくれます。基本的に一人
さみしくお仕事してます。 でもねえ〜〜 そんな私にもスキな作業が
あるのよ♡ ふふ♡ それはね

「ワク線引き」 アーンド フキ出し描き。



背景 まとめて

ニヤリ。

ミリペンでザーザー引くだけなんだけど、かすれたりはみ出したり
私のはてきとーっぽいんだけどなぜかおしょ〜〜にスキです。
マジックで引いてたこともありました〜。

マジック

らくちんだけど
にじむよ〜〜
でもらくちん。

ワク線引いたあと ペン入れまでは

ふうまい

とたれて、かなり気合い入れないと

キアイ

できません。

なんでだろな〜〜 ペン持つまでずいぶん時間がかかるんだよな〜〜
ちなみに全部丸ペンです。ペンを変えるのがめんどくさくてそうなりました。
そうか やはし私はめんどくさがりやなのか
ペンホワイト用に使ってるGペンはカピカピでもう軸からはなれない
洗えばいいんだけどね

3詰めです。バカです。

Translator Oceansportrait
Proofreader SultrySiren
Editor Bel52
QC'r Oceansportrait/Bel52
JShoujo Scans
A Rose-Colored Tomorrow
Volume 1 Chapter 2

Translator: Oceansportrait
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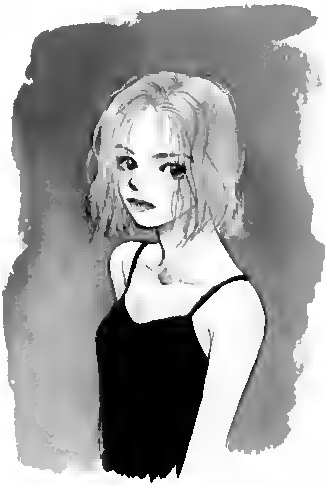
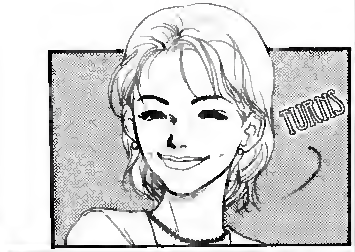
QC'r: Oceansportrait/Bel52
JShoujo Scans
A Rose-Colored Tomorrow
Volume 1 Chapter 3

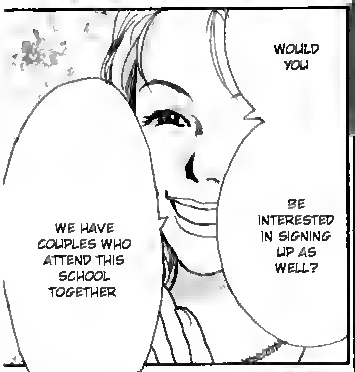
A ROSE-COLORED TOMORROW

Story 3:
Fight!



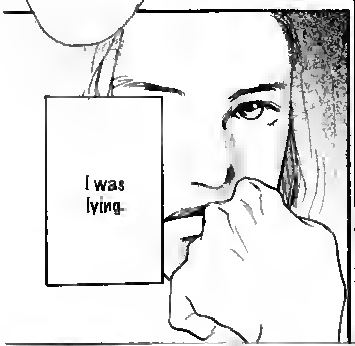


He tagged along with a girl who'd come to get some information regarding English courses that were offered by the English School that I worked at.



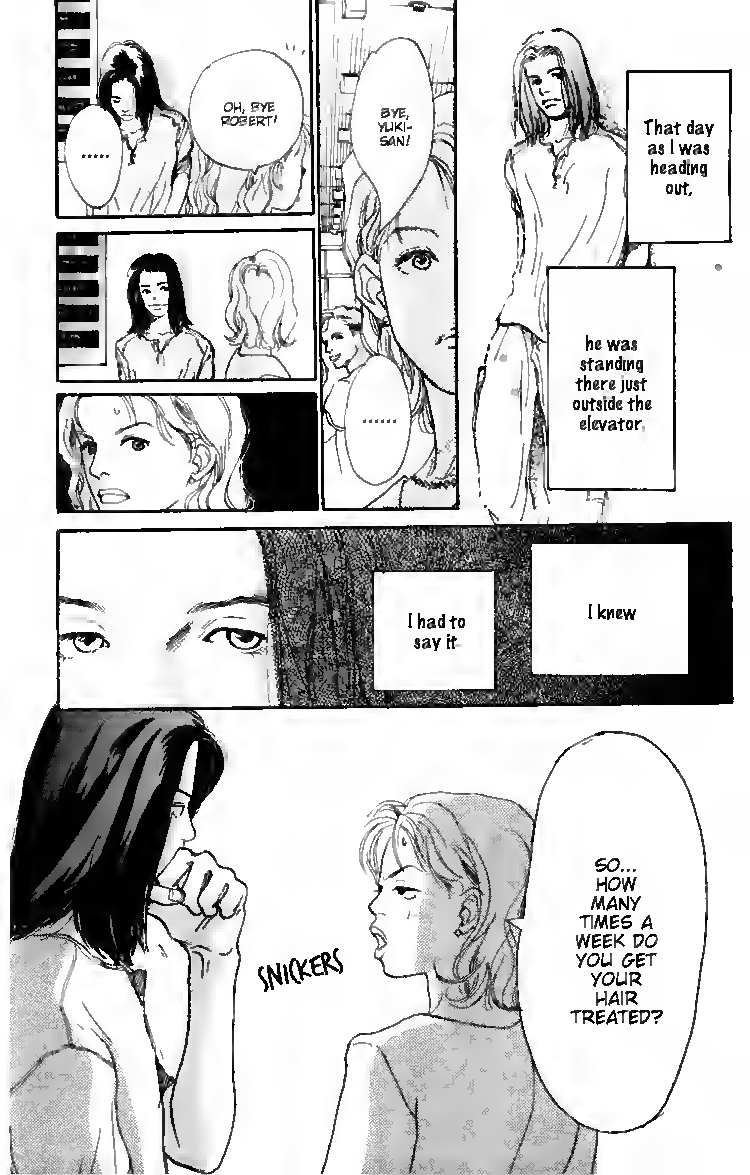
I was giving her my best customer smile, and trying to recruit her as best as I could. While I was doing that, out of the corner of my eye——

I noticed how he kept staring at me as if he wanted to say something.

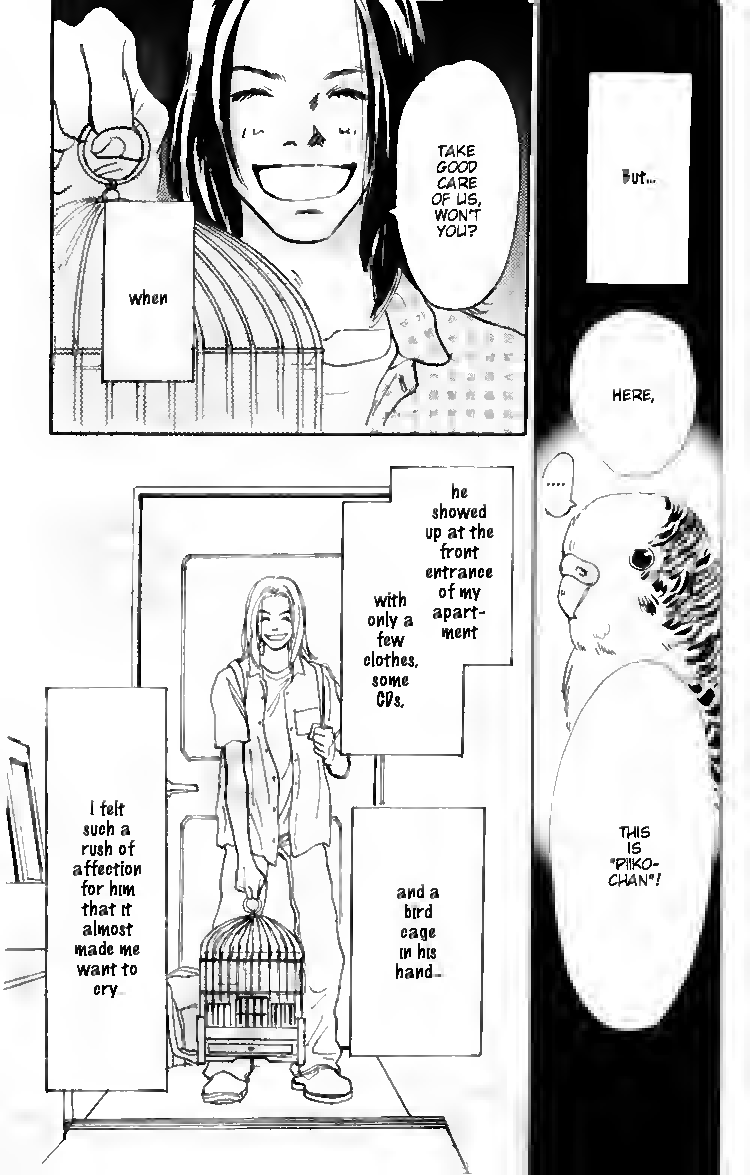


Apparently it hurts

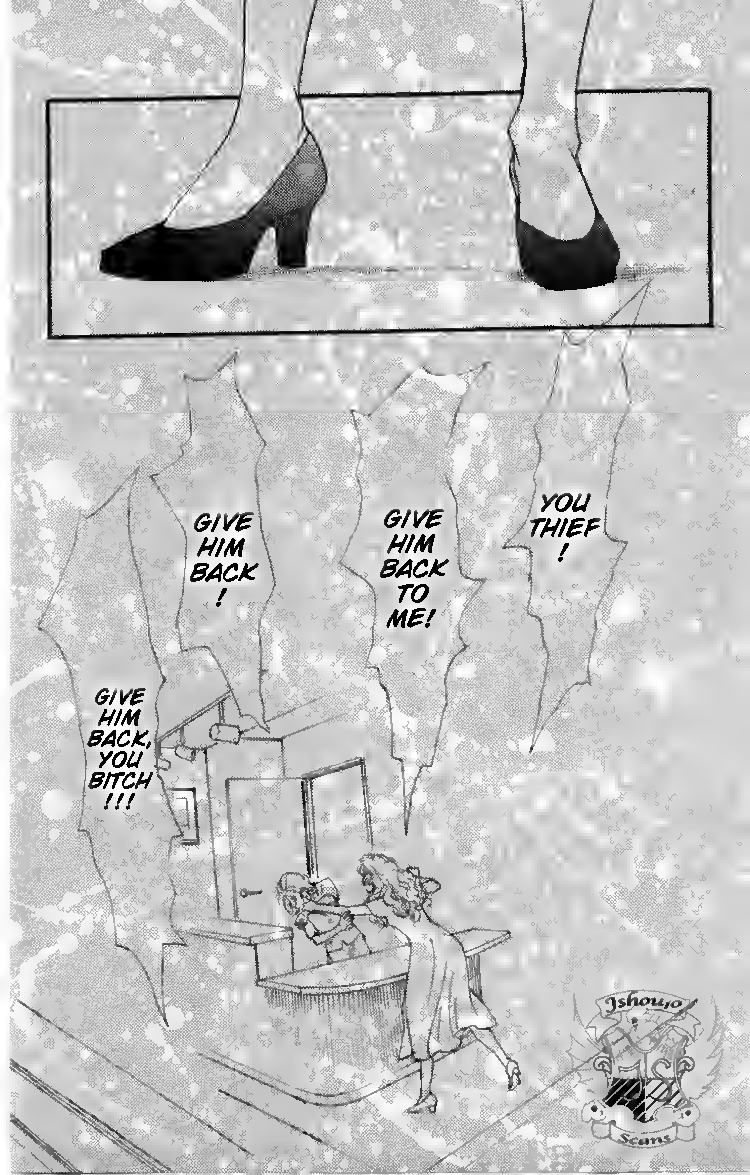
Apparently she kicked him in the eg


.....
OH, BYE ROBERT!
BYE, YUKI-SAN!
.....
That day as I was heading out,
he was standing there just outside the elevator.
I had to say it
I knew
SNICKERS
SO... HOW MANY TIMES A WEEK DO YOU GET YOUR HAIR TREATED?

He's not my type at all
I'm saving my money up so that I can study abroad
I'm planning to go abroad for three years
That's why I'm working
BOOM
crackle
crackle
I don't have time to be fooling around with you
IT'S SO PRETTY.
YOU'RE MUCH PRETTIER
....
TALK ABOUT LAME!
He's giving me the chills!
poke
THEN DON'T SAY IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
SMOOCH
NOW THAT'S LAME!
DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR THE LONGEST TIME, THOUGH?


TAKE GOOD CARE OF US, WON'T YOU?
when
But...
HERE,
....
THIS IS "PIIKO-CHAN"!
he showed up at the front entrance of my apart-ment
with only a few clothes, some CDs,
and a bird cage in his hand...
I felt such a rush of affection for him that it almost made me want to cry

EIS Language Centers
WE TEACH ENGLISH TO THE WORLD


GIVE HIM BACK!
GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!
YOU THIEF!
GIVE HIM BACK, YOU BITCH!!!
Ishoujo Scans

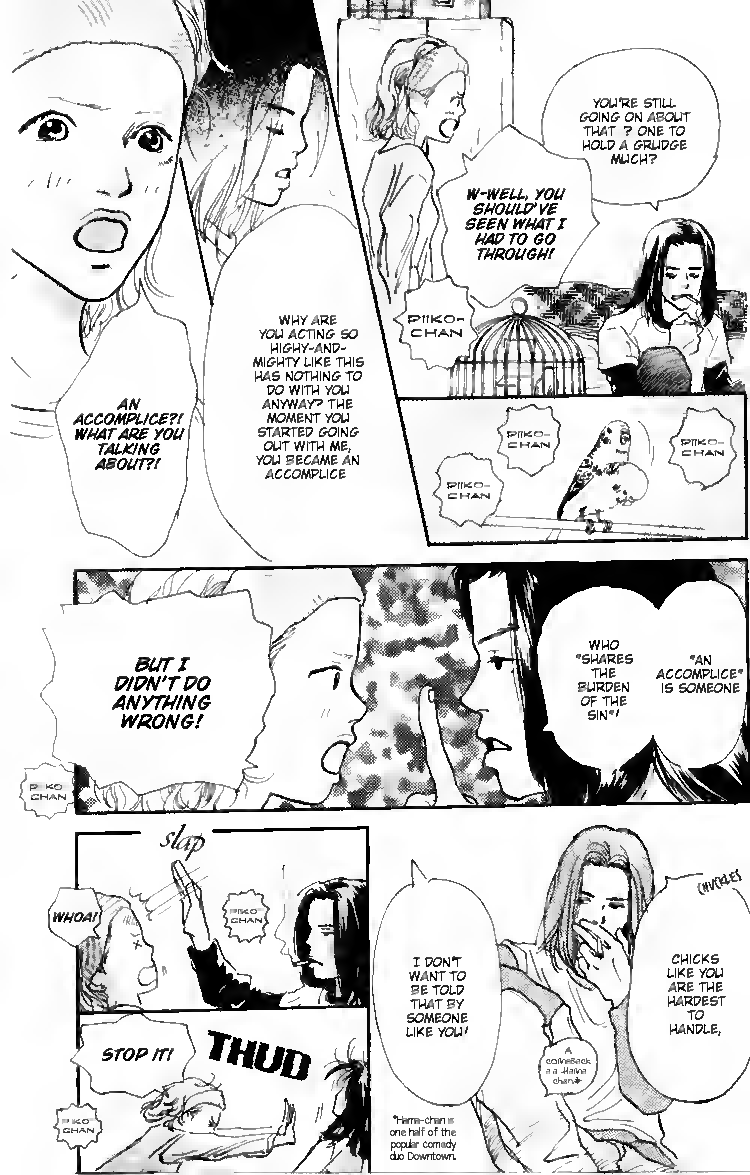
CHIRP
CHIRP
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A DEATH MATCH!
THAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
YEAH, NO KIDDING
THAT WAS DEFINITELY ONE FOR THE BOOKS
List of Things to Do
16
17
18
19
OH, IT'S JUST,
THAT THIS WOMAN WAS YELLING IN HERE YESTERDAY
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT WAS ONE FOR THE BOOKS?
SHOULD I MAKE SOME TEA?
THAT'D BE GREAT
THANKS
AND LIKE,
AS IT TURNS OUT, SHE WAS SOMEONE WHO CAME HERE TO CHECK THINGS OUT AT THE SCHOOL BEFORE ENROLLING, YOU KNOW?
AND APPARENTLY, YUKI SNAGGED THE GUY THAT SHE CAME HERE WITH--
NO WAY, KAWASHIMA-SAN?!
WELL, TO BE MORE SPECIFIC THE GUY WAS THE ONE WHO FELL FOR YUKI-CHAN
OH, THEN THAT'S TOTALLY NOT HER FAULT THEN!

GOOD MORNING EVERYBODY!
.....
.....
HE MOVED IN WITH HER!
TALK ABOUT FAST!
AND NOT ONLY THAT... BUT THREE DAYS AFTER THEY MET,
.....
blinks
morning
(HUCKLE)
Good morning Jeffrey!
in her most awkward accent ever
KAWASHIMA-SAN!
IS THAT SOMETHING...
THAT THAT WOMAN FROM YESTERDAY DID TO YOU?!
IT'S FROM "A LOVER'S SPAT"

When he turned around to say "Shut up!" the elbow of the right hand that was holding the spatula hit me smack in the face
I was mostly doing it to tease him, so I kept going on and on and on
So I had a little complaint-fest while he was making some fried rice
Last night, I was still pretty steamed about that girl who came barging in to my work-place during lunch.
He said "you reap what you sow" right after that.
but that was just an accident, so I don't bear any grudge towards him
That's why
I put my heart and soul into making his lunch set! ♡
LOVE

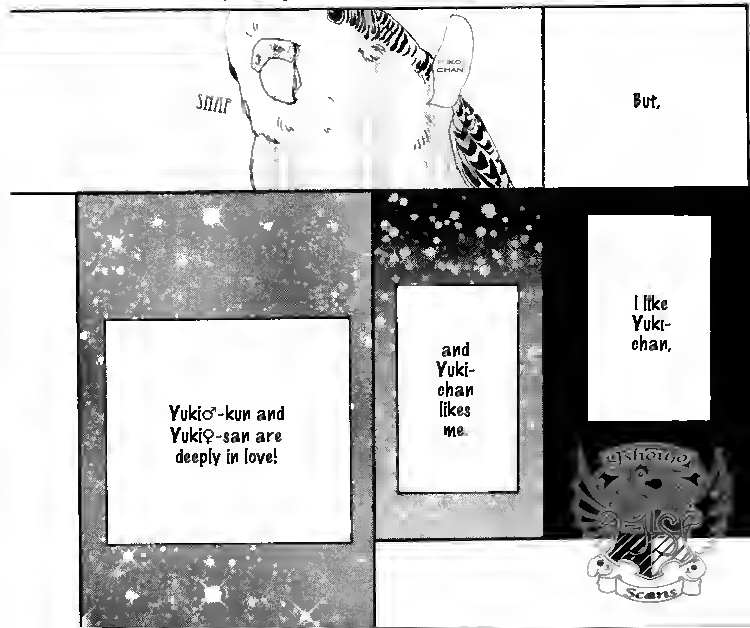
slowly opens
.....
looks around
click
THAT IDIOT!
OFFICE
finch
finch
finch
finch
finch

things turned out like this.
I don't even know why
CHIRP CHIRP
THANKS FOR THE CRAP-FEST TODAY.
I ALMOST GOT A NOSEBLEED FROM THAT PERVERTED LUNCH SET.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU MOVE IN BEFORE YOU SET THINGS STRAIGHT WITH YOUR PREVIOUS GIRL,
THAT "I" END UP HAVING TO DEAL WITH THE AFTERMATH!


AN ACCOMPLICE?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO HIGHY-AND-MIGHTY LIKE THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYWAY? THE MOMENT YOU STARTED GOING OUT WITH ME, YOU BECAME AN ACCOMPLICE
W-WELL, YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN WHAT I HAD TO GO THROUGH!
YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT ? ONE TO HOLD A GRUDGE MUCH?
P!IKO-CHAN
P!IKO-CHAN
P!IKO-CHAN
P!IKO-CHAN
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
P!IKO CHAN
WHO "SHARES THE BURDEN OF THE SIN"?
"AN ACCOMPLICE" IS SOMEONE
slap
WHOA!
P!IKO CHAN
STOP IT!
THUD
P!IKO CHAN
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD THAT BY SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
*Herre-chan is one half of the popular comedy duo Downtown.
A confusion of a -Hatena chan-
(WHINE)
CHICKS LIKE YOU ARE THE HARDEST TO HANDLE,

DRAW YOUR EYEBROWS IN FOR GOD'S SAKE!
SWISH
IKO CHAN!
IKO CHAN!
IKO CHAN!
WHY DON'T YOU CUT YOUR HAIR THEN ?!
bubble
bubble
IKO CHAN!
THUD
THUD
THUD
WAIT!
DON'T YOU SMELL SOME-THING BURNING ..
HE—
.....
GYAA!
SWISH
THEN WHY DON'T WE GET SOME SLEEP?
SWISH
NO,
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT
WANNA GO OUT TO EAT?
very snappy
very snappy
talk off
AFTER ALL THAT EFFORT I MADE
TO MAKE IT FROM SCRATCH

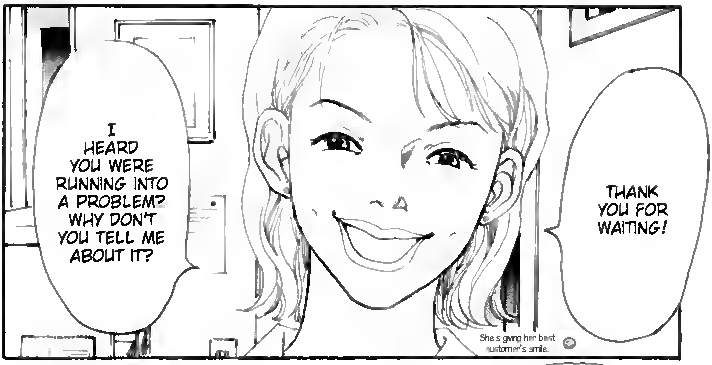
* He says this in English.

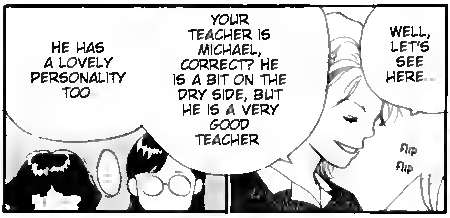


When it comes right down to it,

Yuki-chan and I are people who value peace above all.

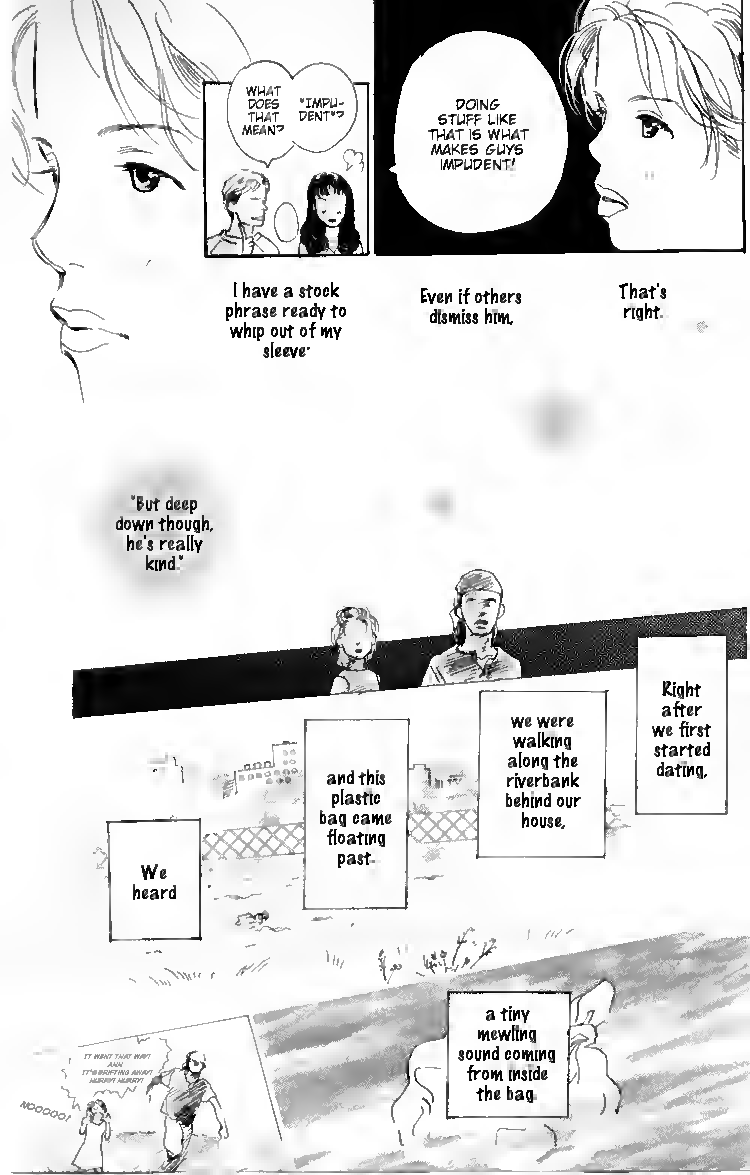
like, for real.


I HEARD YOU WERE RUNNING INTO A PROBLEM? WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?
THANK YOU FOR WAITING!
She's giving her best customer's smile.


HE HAS A LOVELY PERSONALITY TOO
YOUR TEACHER IS MICHAEL, CORRECT? HE IS A BIT ON THE DRY SIDE, BUT HE IS A VERY GOOD TEACHER
WELL, LET'S SEE HERE...
flip flip

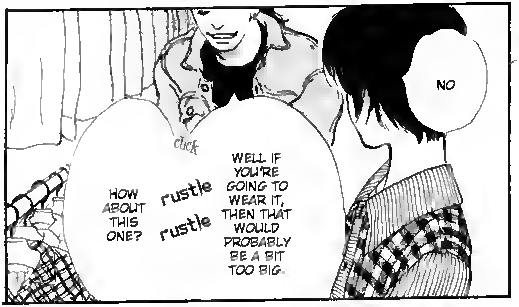
that he was a bit dry, but a good teacher, didn't I?
That's why I said
WELL
COMPATIBILITY DOES VARY
DEPENDING ON THE PERSON
SHALL WE SWITCH YOU TO ANOTHER CLASS?
FOR US TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT, HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR ENGLISH ABILITIES?
WE'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO STUDY ABROAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
YES?
YES OH, AND——
Study more!
Right now,
I'll ask you some questions
Please, answer OK?

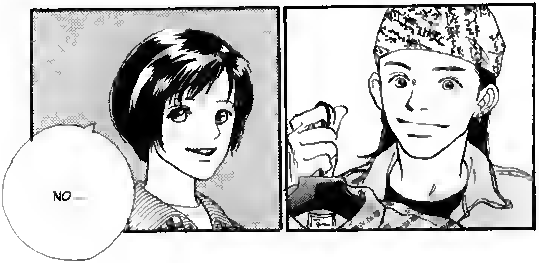
I don't know why...
but I've been feeling
really tired
lately.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?
WHOA, YUKI-CHAN!
OH, IT'S NOTHING!
I BRUISE REALLY EASILY, SO IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL!
IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL!
DID YOUR BOYFRIEND DO THAT?
NOT ON PURPOSE!
hehe
IF HE REALLY TRIED TO TAKE A SWING AT ME, I'D KNOCK HIS LIGHTS OUT!
...
YOU'RE ONLY MAKING UP EXCUSES FOR HIM, YOU KNOW?


WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
"IMPUDENT"?
DOING STUFF LIKE THAT IS WHAT MAKES GUYS IMPUDENT!
I have a stock phrase ready to whip out of my sleeve.
Even if others dismiss him,
That's right.
"But deep down though, he's really kind."
We heard
and this plastic bag came floating past.
we were walking along the riverbank behind our house,
Right after we first started dating,
a tiny mewling sound coming from inside the bag.
IT WANT TAKE WAY FAM IT'S BREATHING AWAY HURRY HURRY!
NOOOOO!

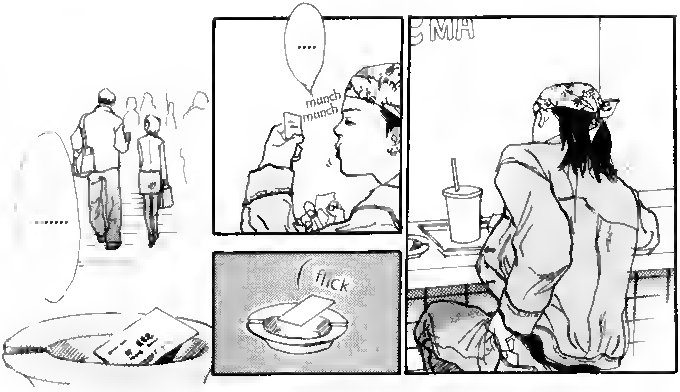
There were
5 kittens in all
3 were already dead
and the other two
died at the animal hospital
THOSE MOTHER-FUCKERS
WHY... THEY SHOULDN'T JUST GO ANY FROM THERE
DAMN IT...
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN...
HOW COULD THEY DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS
WHY
To be honest, seeing him cry made me tear up
more than those kittens' deaths themselves
It was my first time seeing a grown man cry so openly.

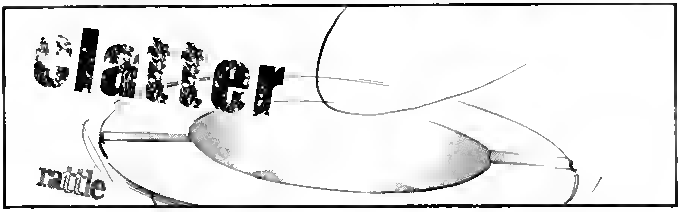
EXCUSE ME——
OH——
BUT DO YOU HAVE THIS IN A SIZE SMALL?
WE ONLY HAVE WHAT'S OUT
ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET IT AS A PRESENT FOR SOMEBODY?


NO
WELL IF YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR IT, THEN THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE A BIT TOO BIG.
rustle
rustle
click
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?


NO——

IT'S JUST,
YOU WERE WEARING THIS THE OTHER DAY, WEREN'T YOU?
HUH?
M-ME?
UH...
"M-ME"?
TOGAWA-KUN! TOGAWA-KUN!
Hey!
NO HITTING ON CHICKS ALLOWED INSIDE THE STORE!
I'm not!
Burger
WHISK
WHISK
later


....
munch munch
.....
flick


clatter
rattle

KA-
THUNK

HEYYY!
Oh, so he went to get them from his ex?
When he first came he only brought a few things.
Since when did his winter clothes get here...?
CRAMMED
CRAMMED
Why didn't he tell me then?
Geez... when did all this stuff get here...
It's because he does stuff like this without telling me that I get suspicious (even if he'd told me though, I'd still be suspicious).
A-And what kind of way to store them is this?
.....
I have a bad feeling about this!
rustle
rustle
Ughhhhh...
CRAMMED

WHY ARE YOU POURING SOY SAUCE OVER IT LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW?
I PUT SO MUCH EFFORT INTO MAKING THIS!
P!-
P!-
IIKO CHAN!
pour
STOP IT.
click
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR TASTEBUDS
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO LIVE LONG!
I DON'T CARE
I'M GOING TO DIE SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY
I'M GOING TO DIE WITH PIIKO!
(CHUCKLES) HUH? YOU WERE PRETTY CUTE JUST NOW...
SO WHAT? YOU CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF ME DYING?
I HAVE A PARTY TOMORROW, SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, DO IT AFTER THAT...

clatter
WHY DO FOREIGNERS LIKE PARTIES SO MUCH ANYWAY?
A PARTY? YOU MEAN, ONE WITH THOSE FOREIGNERS AGAIN?
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE THEY VALUE COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS, UNLIKE YOU?
IS THAT RIGHT?
THUMP
I'LL BE HOME LATE TOMORROW
He suddenly becomes uncommunicative.
YEAH I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
YOU DO HAVE A THING AGAINST FOREIGNERS, RIGHT?
Well it! were Michael Jordan!
RETARDED QUESTION IN THE HOUSE!
DO YOU WANT TO COME?
.....
.....

—WHO'S THIS?
"KANOU MINAE"
rustle
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
throw away
.....
.....
.....
.....
LATER
I'M GOING TO GO BUY SOME SMOKES—
Jatter Jatter
click
SLAM
CHIK
CHIK
CHIK
rustle
flinch

He didn't come back for the rest of the night after that.
It left a bad taste in my mouth—worse than when we fought.
Where is that vending machine that you went to buy your smokes from, huh?
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF

Cheers!!
clink
clink
MUSE
MUSE
Hahaha

Yuki-chan,

to tell you the truth,

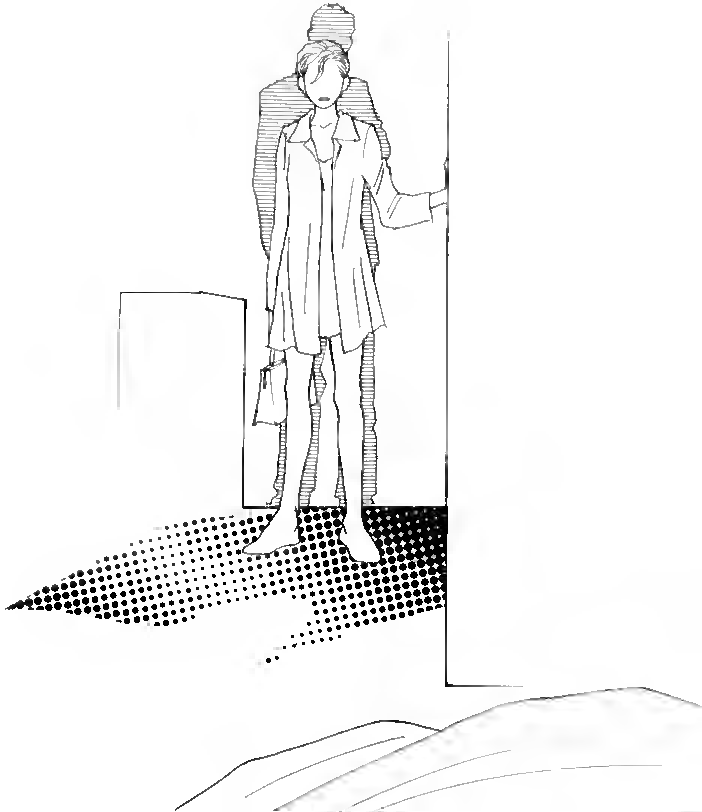
I'd like you to step into the world that I live in,

and not just in that cramped one-room apartment

You should go home now
Let's catch a Taxi
YUKI-SAN?
UGH...
KAWASHIMA-SAN, YOU LOOK PALE!
I THINK THE ALCOHOL'S GETTING TO ME A BIT...
.....
SQUEEAL
She looks alright now.....
I'm going to watch him become a mute!
CHUCKLES
clank
clank
clank
Robert
I'll introduce my boyfriend to you.

click
click
I'M BACK,
YUKI-CHA——
rustle
rustle

What?

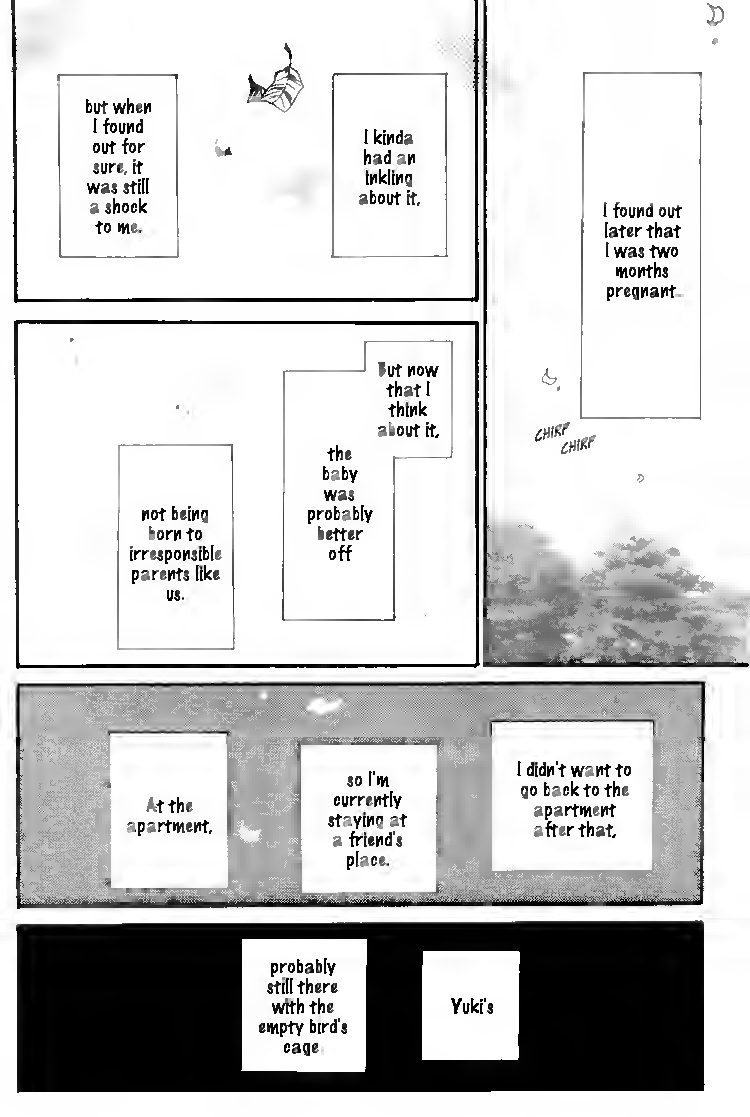


So this is my turn to go and scream "you thief!", right?
THUD
Jolter
Jolter
'You thief'.
she ran off
Hey.

THUMP
rattle
rattle
THUD THUD THUD
YUKI-SAN!
YUKI-SAN
NOOOOOO---! DON'T TRY TO STOP ME ROBERT! I'M GOING TO KILL THIS ASSHOLE!
PI!
CRASH
flap
flap
PI
PI
CHIRP
CHIRP

flap flap
PIIKO-CHAN!
rustle
CHIRP CHIRP
NO! DON'T!
PIIKO-CHAN!
PIIKO-CHAN!
rattle
PI!
!
SMACK
THUD
RAAT
RAAT
RAAT

РАИГ
РАИГ
РАИГ


but when I found out for sure, it was still a shock to me.
I kinda had an inkling about it.
I found out later that I was two months pregnant.
CHIRP CHIRP
not being born to irresponsible parents like us.
the baby was probably better off
But now that I think about it.
At the apartment,
so I'm currently staying at a friend's place.
I didn't want to go back to the apartment after that.
probably still there with the empty bird's cage
Yuki's

CHIRP
CHIRP
PI
PI
.....
....
AKCH
OOO!
YOU BETTER NOT EAT IT!

THANK YOU FOR WAITING!
WHAT CAN I HELP YOU WITH?
I'D LIKE TO TAKE A BREAK FROM CLASSES
A BREAK?
I WON'T BE HERE FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS,
SO I'D LIKE TO USE THOSE REMAINING CLASSES NEXT MONTH INSTEAD——
OH,
BUT YOU SEE,
WE'VE ALREADY SET UP A SCHEDULE FOR YOU.
WE HAVE A POLICY OF NOT ALLOWING CHANGES LIKE——
BUT THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, RIGHT?
OH, BUT THE SYSTEM WE HAVE——
NO ONE TOLD ME THIS DURING THE ORIENTATION!
HUH——

UM
GEEZ
WELL I NEED THE TIME OFF——
I'm busy too
WAHH

I'm sorry Baby.

that I couldn't give birth to you.

I'm sorry, Puko-chan.

letting you off into the darkness like that— you must've been scared!

I'm sorry kitties.

that I couldn't do anything to save you.

I'm sorry,

Yuki-chan.

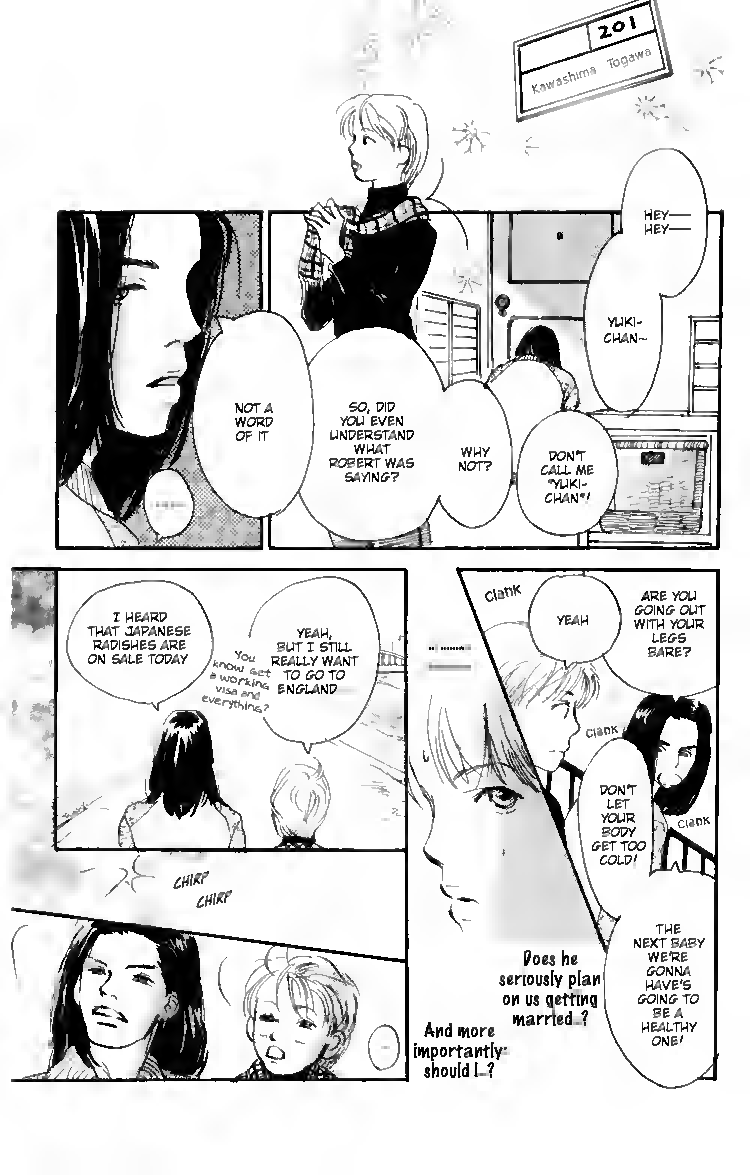
I love you.

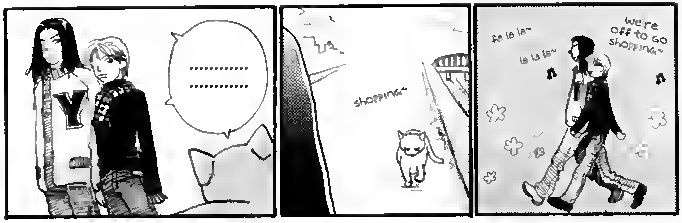
ATLANTA
Clank
Clank
Clank
Clank
LOS ANGELES
Clank
Clank
BOSTON
Clank
Clank
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

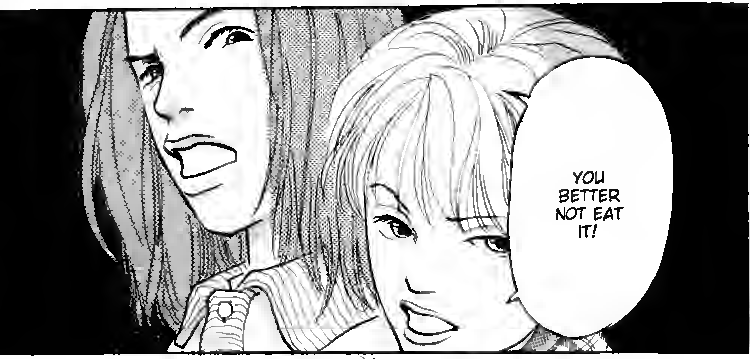
Pat
Pat
see ya!
WHIR
WHIR
NO!
Not you!
She is too good for you!

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, SO SHUT THE FUCK UP! YUKI'S MINE!

WILL YOU MARRY ME?
What—?!


201
Kawashima Togawa
HEY—
HEY—
YUKI-CHAN~
DON'T CALL ME "YUKI-CHAN"!
WHY NOT?
SO, DID YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT ROBERT WAS SAYING?
NOT A WORD OF IT
I HEARD THAT JAPANESE RADISHES ARE ON SALE TODAY
You know I got a working visa and everything?
YEAH, BUT I STILL REALLY WANT TO GO TO ENGLAND
CHIRP CHIRP
clank
YEAH
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH YOUR LEGS BARE?
clank
DON'T LET YOUR BODY GET TOO COLD!
clank
THE NEXT BABY WE'RE GONNA HAVE'S GOING TO BE A HEALTHY ONE!
Does he seriously plan on us getting married...?
And more importantly: should I...?


.....
.....
shopping~
la la la~
la la la~
We're off to go shopping~


YOU BETTER NOT EAT IT!

The only thing I want is to live peacefully with the one I love.
I'm a woman who values peace above all!

<THE END>

HELLO KONNICHIWA~

The last

shuffle shuffle

WOO! WOO!

Well, this is my first time ever doing a serialization consisting of one-shots. I have a good reason for this, and it's because the older I get, the more easily bored I get, so when I'm working on a serialization, soon enough, I get this itching to draw different characters and stories. BUT, since it's not possible for me to quit a series halfway through just because I got bored of it, I try to do stuff like change a character's hairstyle for no particular reason.

Ever since I was in elementary school, I was a reader who loved one-shots. Of course, series were great as well, but I really admired mangakas who could wrap things up on a high note in 50 pages. I also loved 30 and 40 page one-shots that ended with a bang.

Plus, when you write one-shots, not only do you get a chance to draw many different characters, but it ends before you get bored of it, so it's really great in that respect. But at the same time, there are negative aspects of it as well. When you're working on a series, even if you wonder "What am I going to write next?" you could always just amp things up for this month's edition, and think about next month's chapter when that time comes (well, yes, of course there are many mangakas out there who plan their series far in advance).

But for one-shots, you only get that one chance to make sure everything's perfect, so there's no way to cover up your flaws ("Cover up"?). Sometimes, I consider just writing a "To Be Continued" at the end, but of course, I can't do that. Yep.

I was asked by a friend from back in high-school the other day, "Isn't it a lot of work to write one-shots every month?" and I remember answering swiftly without even thinking about it really, "But it's fun." I was really surprised by my own reply, and it made me think, "so it's fun after all, huh? So I'm one happy camper to be able to have fun doing my work." But when I'm actually working, that kind of thought never passes through my mind——not one bit, no siree.

But everytime I wrap up a series, I feel very happy. Even if it doesn't turn out that well, I feel a little happy. I'm happy to be able to create something. When I cook, once I eat it it's gone, so I don't feel any happiness from it. That's why I can't cook. I noticed my talk's drifting. Thanks for reading this.

Next is the 4th chapter. It has a cat. It continues in Volume 2.

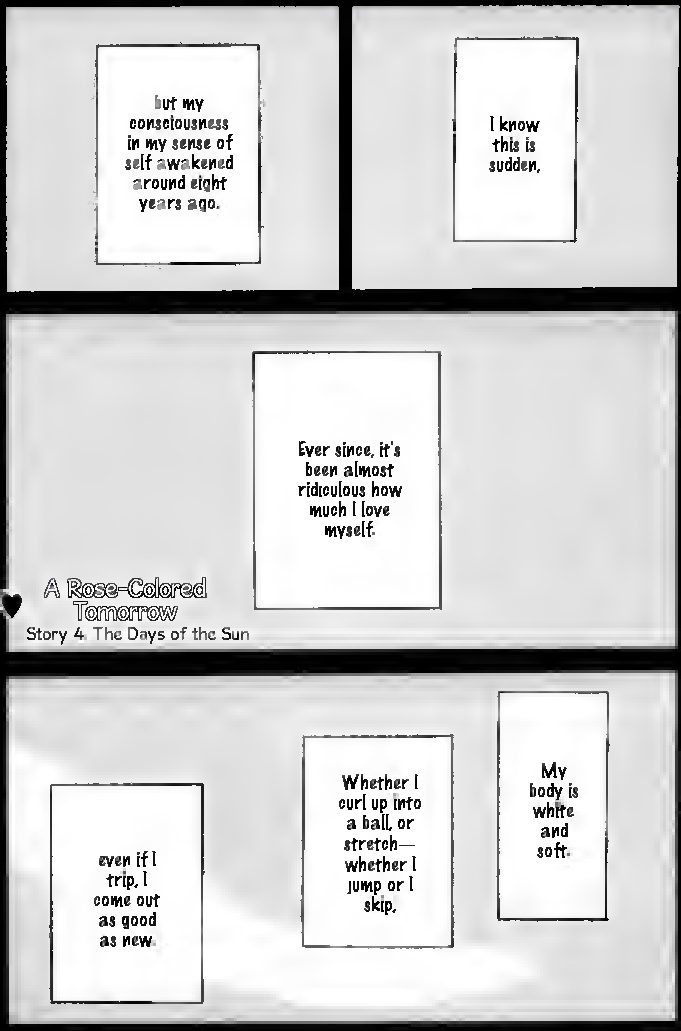
I read all the letters you send me.

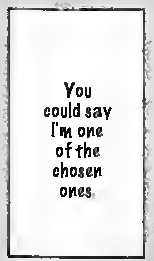
Ikuemi

Translator: Oceansportrait
PR'r: Luv
Editor: Bel52
QC'r: Oceansportrait/Bel52

JShoujo Scans

A Rose-Colored Tomorrow
Volume 1 Chapter 4


but my consciousness in my sense of self awakened around eight years ago.
I know this is sudden.
Ever since, it's been almost ridiculous how much I love myself.
A Rose-Colored Tomorrow
Story 4: The Days of the Sun
even if I trip, I come out as good as new.
Whether I curl up into a ball, or stretch— whether I jump or I skip.
My body is white and soft.

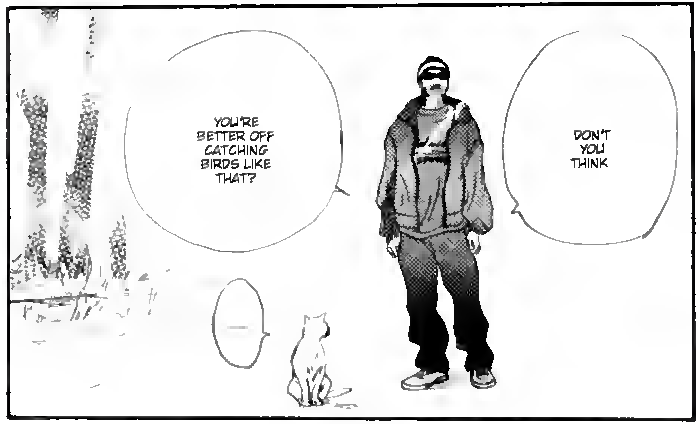


A Rose-Colored Tomorrow

Story 4: The Days of the Sun

FLAP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
crunch
DID YOU SEE THAT?

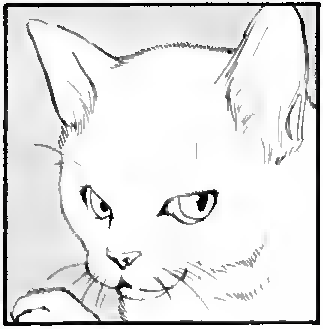
THAT BIRD JUST NOW...
I WONDER WHAT KIND IT IS?
IT WAS A LIGHT RED...
IT WAS A STUNNING BIRD, DON'T YOU THINK?


DON'T YOU THINK
YOU'RE BETTER OFF CATCHING BIRDS LIKE THAT?
—

This guy who smells of hay,

you could say, has the words "melancholy" practically written on his forehead.

Well, not like I would know, 'cause I'm only interested in the sun!



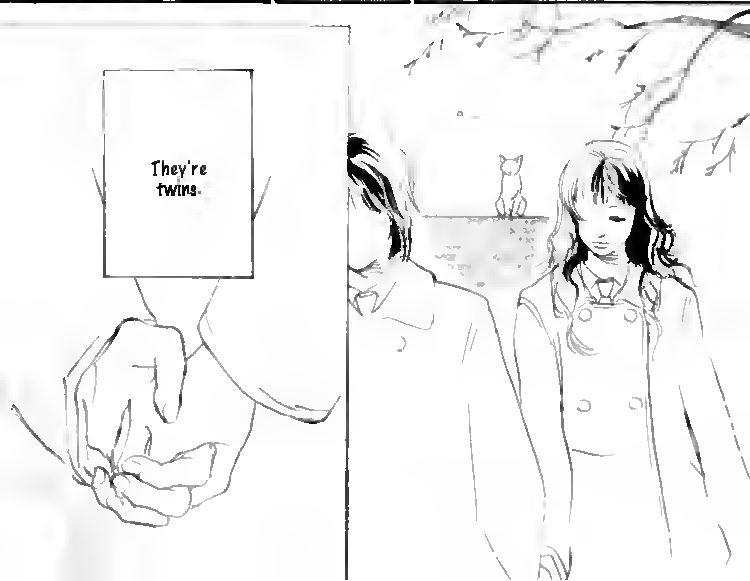
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
snoreee
sniff
CHIRP
.....
.....
CHIRP

NANA!
Pinch
ICHI!
...
YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL ALREADY—
SO YOU SHOULD STOP SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED!
rustle
r o l l
THUD
.....
.....
SMACK

GOOD MORNING
GO-
KI-
KIKU-CHA!
.....
.....
THUD
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
It's been a few weeks already
since I came to spend my days being taken care of at this house
During that time, apparently there was something called "exams".
and the two kids who lived here were now trying to stretch out their wings.

How stupid.
GEEEZZ...
SO TODAY'S THE LAST DAY OF BEING A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT, HUH?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT AFTER TODAY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO DRINK ALCOHOL AND SMOKE BEER!
YOU'RE RIGHT~ WE CAN EVEN GO GAMBLING AND BUY OURSELVES A GIRL IF WE WANTED TO.
BUT STEALING, DOING DRUGS, AND MURDERING PEOPLE AREN'T THINGS WE SHOULD DO--
YOU'RE RIGHT
WE'RE JUST KIDDING
IT'S A JOKE-- GET IT?
What's with you?
HA-HAHA
HA-HAHA
HA-HAHA

SEE YOU!
WE'LL BE SURE TO BE THERE LATER ON!
BYEE~
'MORNING, SNOW WHITE!
HAVE YOU EATEN ALREADY?
MEOOWW
IS THAT RIGHT?
Apparently I'm "Snow White" here
ICHI.
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING IN THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE.
.....


They're twins.

In this household,
lives a grandma called "Kiku-chan", and an old man named "Koku-chan",
plus "Ichi" and "Nana"
Kamioka Rokuro
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
you shouldn't be going around expecting answers like that from a cat like me
Well, it's not as if there is any special meaning to the names,
tap
...
but as for why the household's composed of the people that they are,

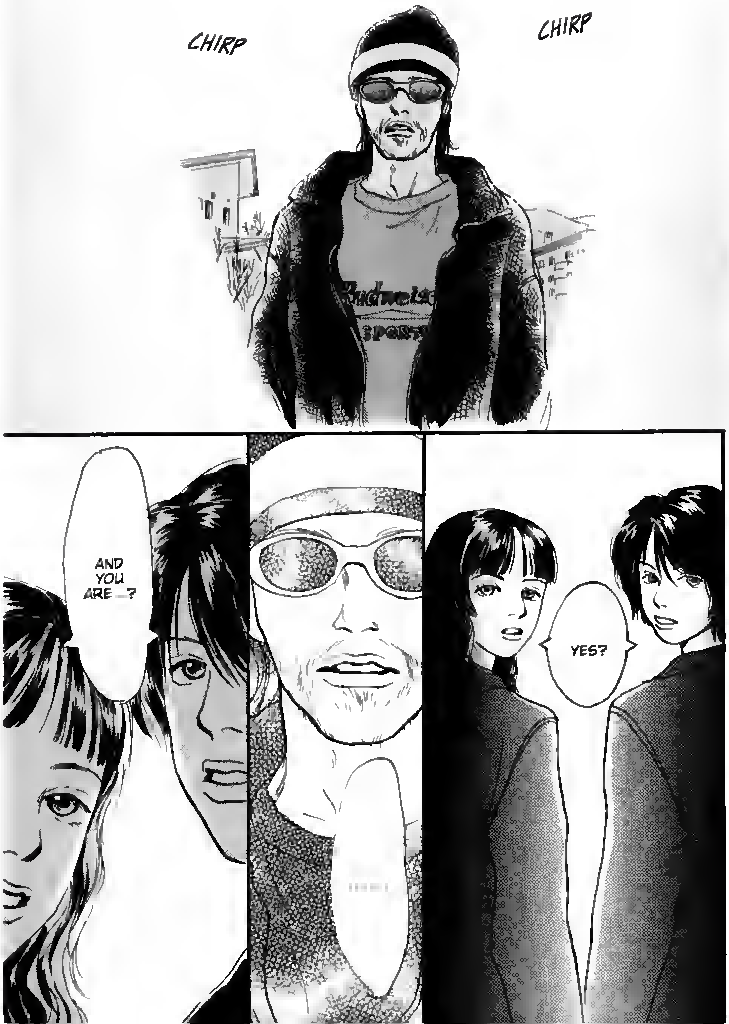
AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GRADUATING CLASS.
KAMIOKA ICHI.
WISE
Can we take a picture with you?
WISE
WISE
Could you please sign this?
Kya
Kya
WE'LL BE APPLYING TO S-HIGH TOO!
Please shake hands with me
Please give me your address!
I'D LOVE TO...
SHOW THOSE GIRLS THE REAL SIDE OF ICHI
DO YOU SERIOUSLY STILL SLEEP IN THE SAME BED?
WELL... HE'S THE ONE WHO ALWAYS WEASELS HIS WAY IN!
OH, IF ONLY I COULD SWITCH PLACES WITH YOU!
ahaha

Search for the family
PRETTY OPENLY, I MUST SAY
WAS CRYING, WEREN'T THEY?
YOUR FAMILY
I-I-I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU!
WAVE WAVE
KAMIOKA!
MASUGI?
snip
snip
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME,

WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?!
NO.
WHOA!
W-
WHY ARE YOU SO QUICK TO
HE'S COMING
HUH?
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
NANA, LET'S GET GOING!
SURE~
.....
I'm starving

.....
.....
KAMIOKA!
I guess since they're twins, they have a really strong bond, you know?
As for me, I have four brothers and sisters,
but I don't even know where they are, what they're up to, or whether they're even still alive or not
It all just becomes one big mystery that I don't care enough to solve, you know?
.....
You're probably wondering, "But you're a cat. What are you saying"? Am I right?
The world revolves around me
Well, there's no one as venerable as me in this world, afterall

Well, at any rate, I value your run-of-the mill, everyday life above all
Days seeped in peace and tranquility.
A happiness in which tomorrow isn't unlike yesterday.
But I've been thinking lately that perhaps,
a daily routine like that's only asking to be shaken
NANA-CHAN.
ICHI-KUN?


CHIRP
CHIRP
YES?
AND YOU ARE...?

CHIRP CHIRP
UM.
I-I'M
YOUR FATHER.
WE DON'T HAVE A FATHER.
stalks off
HEY
AH
WAIT
UH

clang!
THUD
Hubbit
Hubbit
Hubbit
YOUR CHILDREN
HAVE JUST PROUDLY GRADUATED MIDDLE SCHOOL
Well I'm not sure about 'proudly' but

SLAM
SUSHI!
(The Grade A ones!)
Sushi? Well okay then!
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT TONI—
?
YOU'RE BACK?
DASHES
DASHES
click
SLAM
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW...?

DAD ...?
SQU EEZE
whistle
They have absolutely no manners!
I went out of my way to get them a graduation gift,
and they didn't even look my way! What were they in such a hurry for?
I knew it! There's no point in going out of my way for humans!
It wasn't like me at all to do something like this in the first place
THERE'S STILL LOTS MORE
since this household seems to be lacking in proteins!
I'll just eat this on my own.
Ha!
THUMP
EAT UP!

.....
.....
.....
IT'S ALMOST EERIE...
YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET TONIGHT
WHAT'S WRONG, YOU TWO?
munch
.....
UM-
RING RING
clatter
?
p1
YES, KAMIOKA RESIDENCE
...ICHI-KUN?
HOW COULD YOU TREAT YOUR FATHER LIKE THAT...?!
YOU'RE SO COLD...!
NANA!
IT'S THAT STALKER!
. . .
....
what?! No way!

Tonight,
after taking in my proteins, I was given, for some reason, some really great quality sashimi.
I became so stuffed that I couldn't even move!
.....
.....
Vroom
NAKAYOSHI PARK
GOOD EVENING
.....
I'M SORRY TO CALL YOU BOTH OUT HERE SO LATE AT NIGHT...
WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE?
.....
IS THERE A FAMILY RESTAURANT AROUND HERE?
NO, THERE ISN'T.
WE'RE FINE HERE
.....
IS THAT RIGHT?

"HACHI...
"Nana means "7" and Ichi means "1," and Hachi means "8".
DON'T ADD US!
shoves away
Vroom...

"PROOF".
EXCUSE ME?
PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH SOMETHING THAT WILL PROVE THAT YOU'RE REALLY OUR FATHER
AND JUST SO YOU KNOW? OUR BIRTH DATE, BLOOD TYPE, OR HOROSCOPE WON'T DO
IT HAS TO BE MORE... HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE IT? SOMETHING THAT ONLY SOMEONE RELATED TO YOU BY BLOOD COULD KNOW!
WE'RE WAITING!

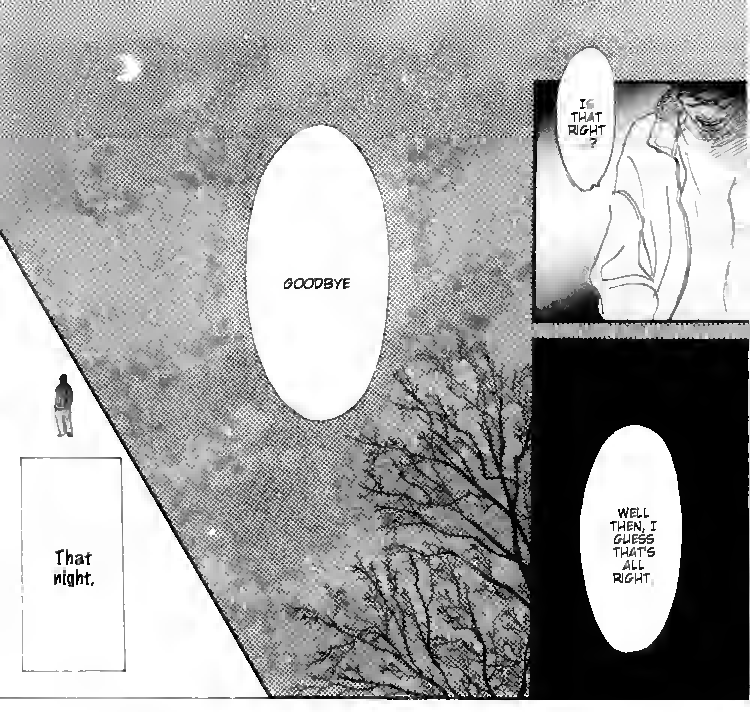
YOU POMPOUS BRATS
SNICKER
YOU HAVE A BIRTHMARK ON YOUR CHEST THAT'S SHAPED LIKE A BUTTERFL-
NO, WE DON'T.
YOU KNOW...
I HATED YOU BOTH FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
AYAKO DIED GIVING BIRTH TO YOU.
I DIDN'T EVEN WANT KIDS — ALL I NEEDED AND WANTED WAS AYAKO.
TO BE WITH HER WAS ALL I NEEDED.
SQUEEZES
Ishouya Scans

I'M NOT PROUD OF THIS,
BUT AT THAT TIME, I HAD ZERO KNOWLEDGE OF SUPPORTING MYSELF-LET ALONE NEWBORN BABIES.
AYAKO'S PARENTS CAME TO ME ONE DAY,
AND TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE THE KIDS AND RAISE THEM, SO THAT I SHOULD JUST FORGET EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.
JUST LIKE HOW
I TOOK AWAY THEIR ONE AND ONLY DAUGHTER FROM THEM,
I WAS NEVER ALLOWED TO SEE YOU TWO EVER AGAIN.
THEY RESENT ME
THEY TOLD ME, "WHY WEREN'T YOU THE ONE TO DIE INSTEAD?"

Vroom——
NAKA
.....
AND JUST SO YOU KNOW—
"PROOF" ENOUGH FOR YOU?
IS THIS
FOR KIKU-CHAN AND ROKU-CHAN WHO RAISED US
YOU'RE NO MATCH
YOU DESPISE US, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT

SEEK REVENGE?
JUST CAME TO SEE YOU, THAT'S ALL
I
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO DO?
WE'RE LEAVING
YOU TWO MUST BE REALLY CLOSE, HUH?

THE ONLY PERSON WE NEED IS EACH OTHER.
..... YES...
BECAUSE IT'S THE SAME FOR US.
AYAKO'S RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR YOU.
MAYBE NOT.
BUT THEN AGAIN,
THAT'S PROBABLY A BIT WRONG



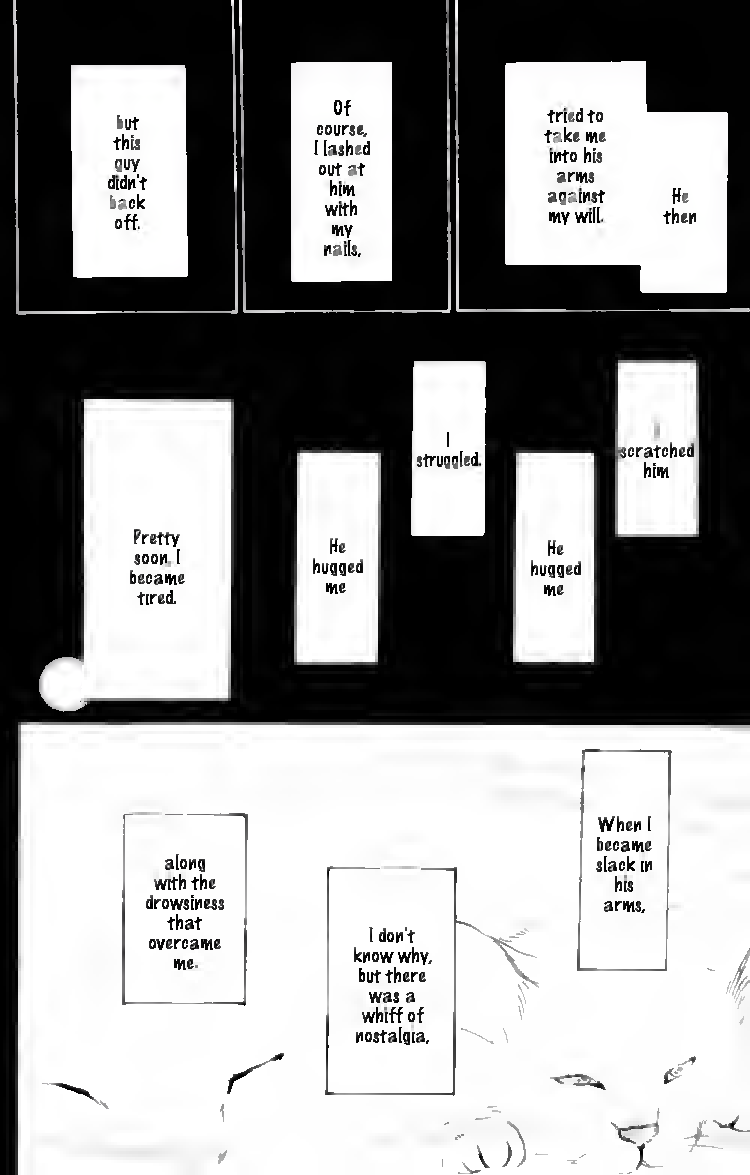
The moon was out, and it was a bit chilly.

It was a night that made me wonder whether we were backing ourselves into winter again.

that I went out on a night walk to shake it off.

my stomach felt so heavy.

I was in the park
doing my business,
rustle rustle rustle
?
when I turned around and realized for the first time
flinch
that there was someone else there.
I froze in place.
SO WE MEET AGAIN LITTLE BUDDY
He's the one
who asked me if I was going to catch that red bird

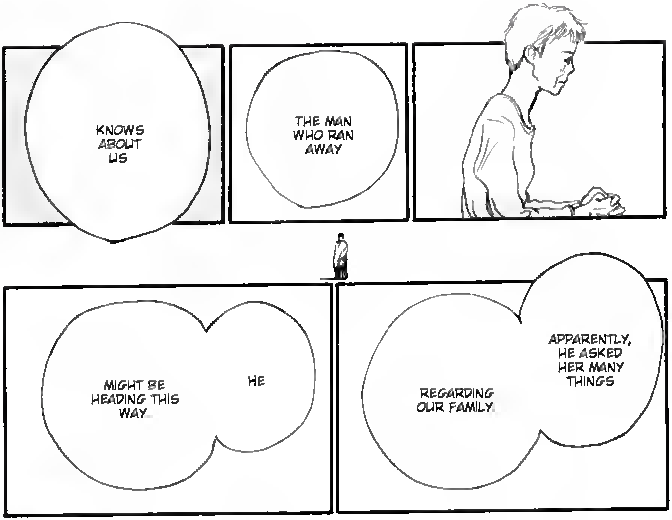

but this guy didn't back off.
Of course, I lashed out at him with my nails.
He then tried to take me into his arms against my will.
Pretty soon, I became tired.
He hugged me
I struggled.
He hugged me
I scratched him
along with the drowsiness that overcame me.
I don't know why, but there was a whiff of nostalgia.
When I became slack in his arms,

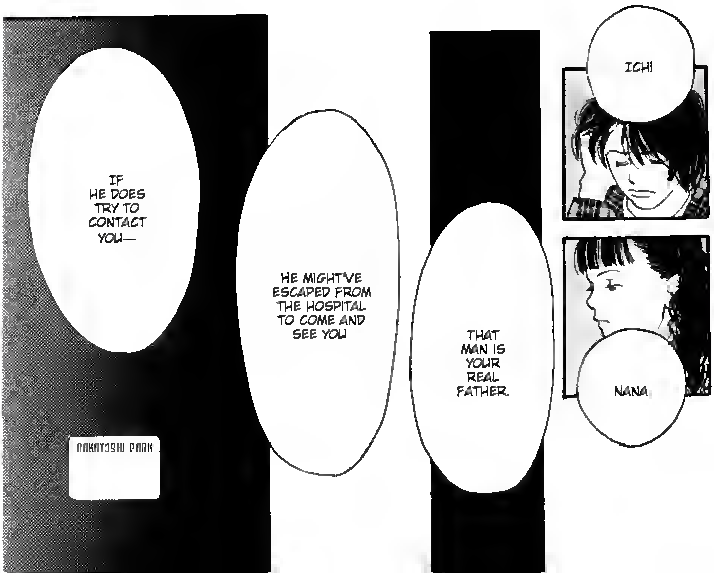
Ishoujo Scans

CHIRP
CHIRP
SNOW WHITE'S NOT COMING TODAY...
WHERE WERE YOU TWO
LAST NIGHT?
NO REASON...
HUH...?
RING RING
clatter
clatter
.....
.....
WHY DID YOU BOTH JUST FREEZE?
tense
BA-DUM!

ICHI,
YEAH
FINE
MASUGI?
RING
YES, KAMIOKA RESIDENCE!
YOU TWO AREN'T HIDING ANYTHING FROM ME, ARE YOU?
NO...
WE'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING FROM YOU
"They wish I had died instead".
"They resent me".

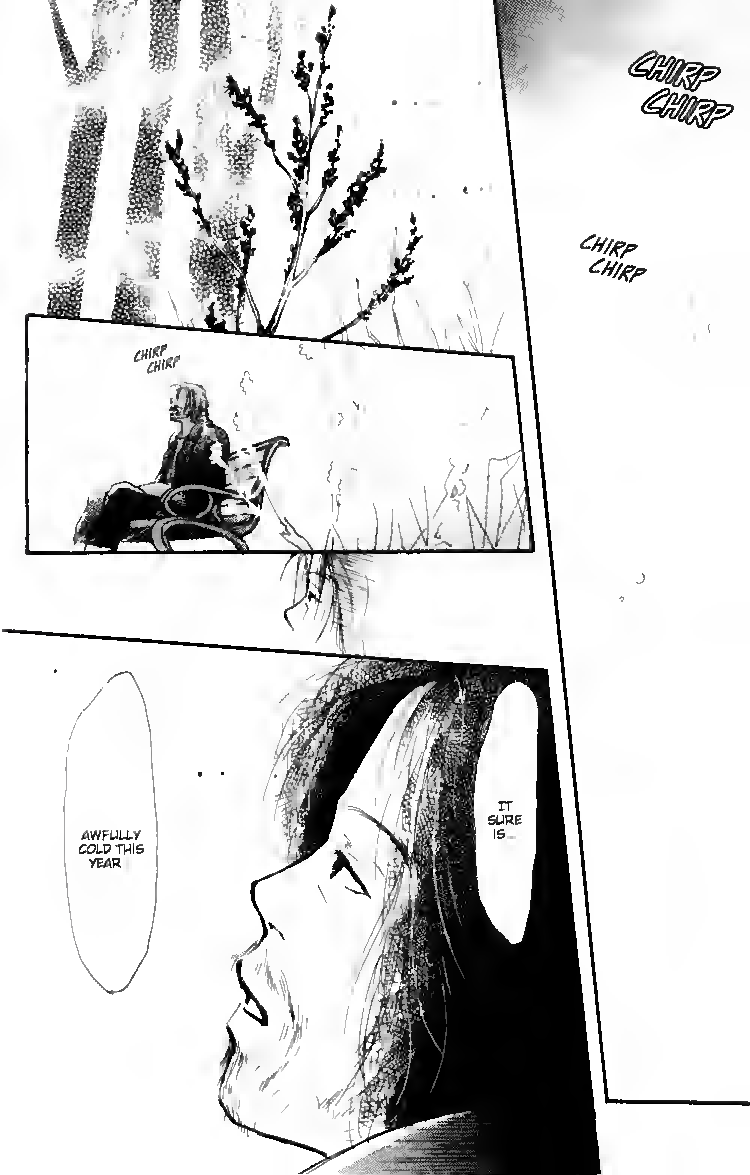
WHAT'S UP?
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU BOTH ABOUT SOMETHING
WHEN IS HE GOING TO GIVE UP? GEEZ
ICHI—
MIND COMING WITH ME TO THE PARK?
MASUGI'S CALLED ME OUT—
LAST NIGHT, ROKU-CHAN
WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT
ROKU-CHAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER'S DAUGHTER IS WORKING RIGHT NOW IN TOKYO AS A NURSE
THERE WAS A PATIENT OF HERS WHO RECENTLY RAN AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL

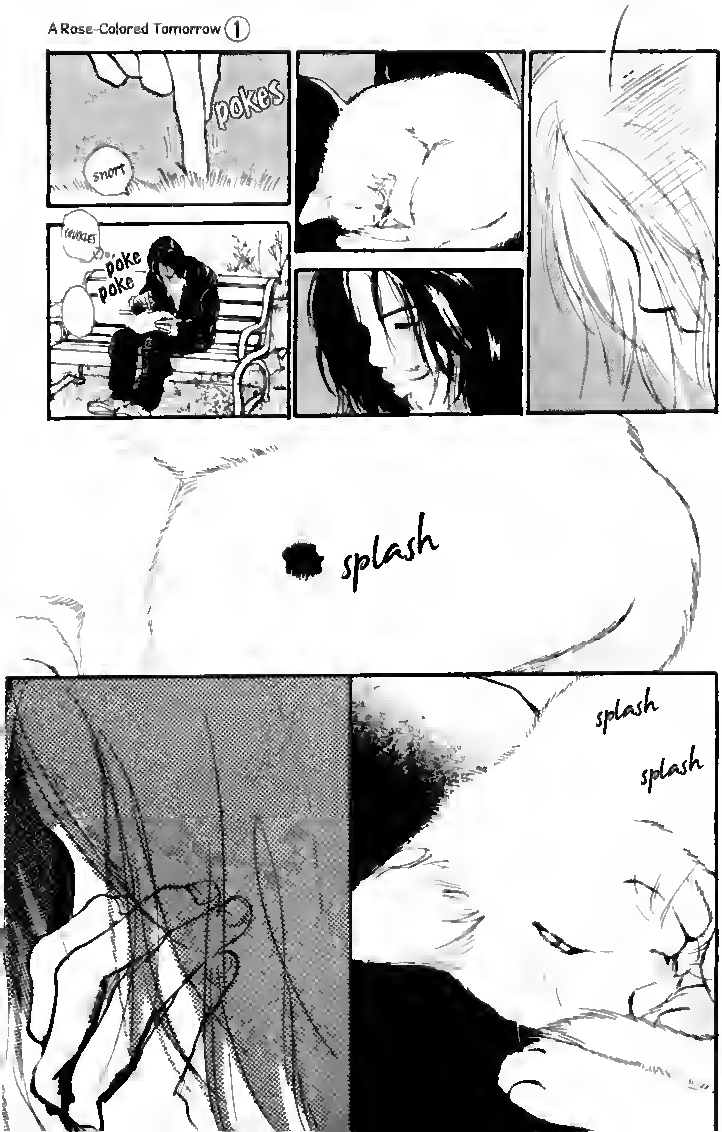

KNOWS ABOUT US
THE MAN WHO RAN AWAY
MIGHT BE HEADING THIS WAY.
HE
REGARDING OUR FAMILY.
APPARENTLY, HE ASKED HER MANY THINGS

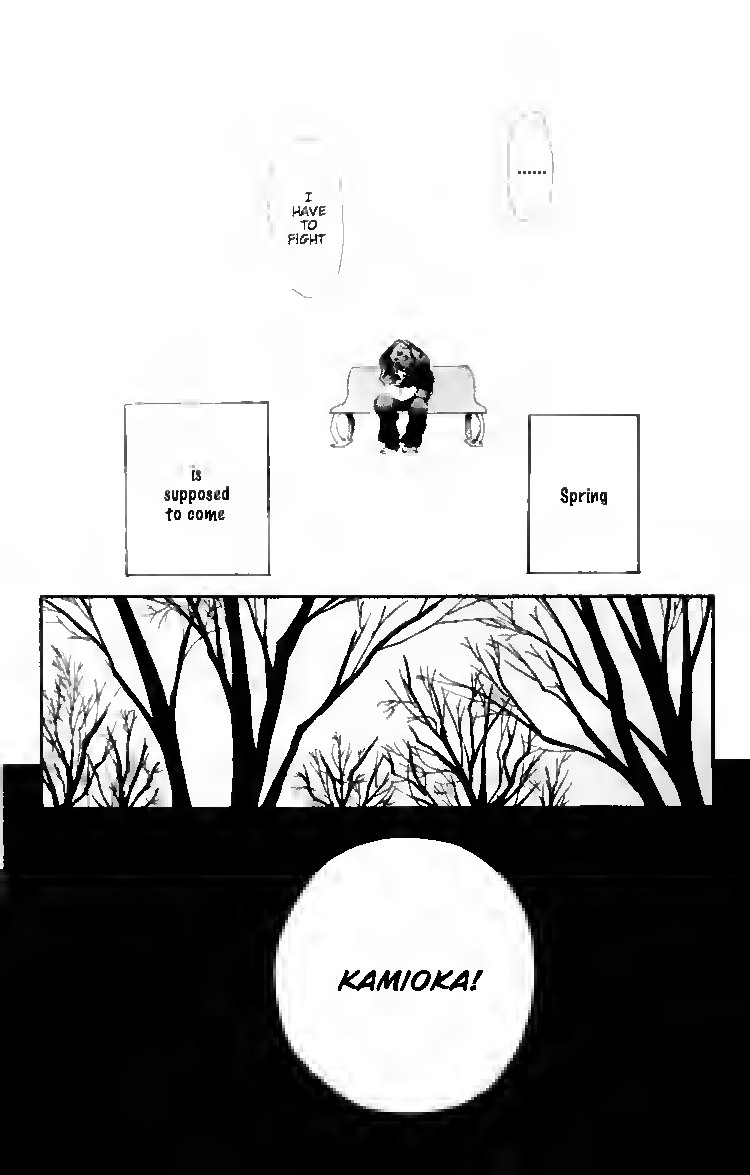

IF HE DOES TRY TO CONTACT YOU—
HE MIGHT'VE ESCAPED FROM THE HOSPITAL TO COME AND SEE YOU
THAT MAN IS YOUR REAL FATHER.
ICHI
NANA
NAOKI YOSHI PARK

IT'LL BE UP TO YOU,
WHETHER YOU'D LIKE TO SEE HIM OR NOT.
IS HE...
SICK?
YES
WE JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT...
IS HE GOING TO DIE?
I DON'T KNOW...
...!

Ayako's right behind you


CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP
AWFULLY COLD THIS YEAR
IT SURE IS_

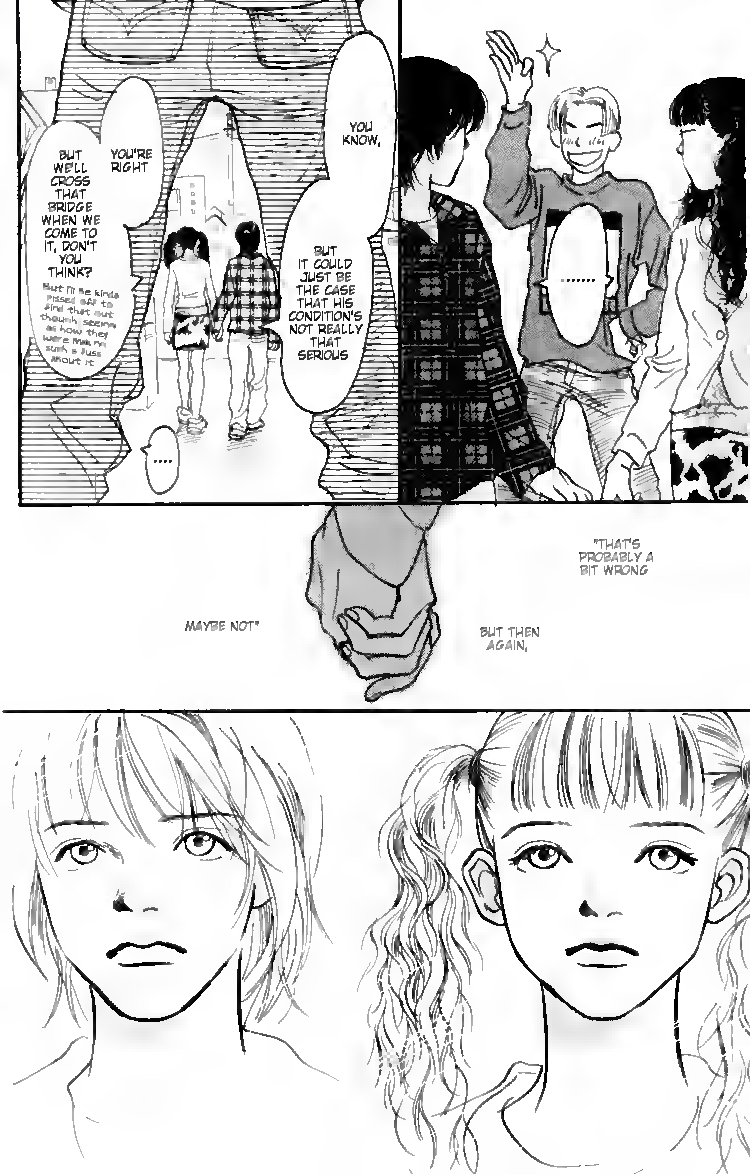

pokes
snort
rustles
poke
poke
splash
splash
splash


I HAVE TO FIGHT
.....
Is supposed to come
Spring
KAMIOKA!

T-THANKS FOR COMING...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD
fancea
OOOH, NO, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, MASUGI.
HUH?
.....
.....
Kamioka
Kamioka
THERE WERE POLICE HERE YESTERDAY BECAUSE APPARENTLY THERE WAS SOME WEIRD GUY...
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT SAFE TO BE ROAMING AROUND HERE!
WHY'D YOU CALL HER OUT TO SUCH AN UNSAFE PLACE THEN?!
HUH...?
WHA—? WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
WHO ARE YOU
SORRY, BUT WE HAVE TO RUN
WE'RE JUST LOOKING FOR SOMEONE RIGHT NOW...
C'MON, HOLD UP, KAMIOKA!

YOU TWO...
ARE RELATED, AREN'T YOU?
THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH YOU
WAIT, ICHI!
WHO WAS THIS "WEIRD GUY"?
AH...
UM...
HE WAS WEARING A HAT...
AND HE WAS WEARING SUNGLASSES EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NIGHT...
MY GRANNY WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED THE COPS ON HIM, SO I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM.
DID THEY TAKE HIM AWAY?
NAH...
HE TOLD THEM HE WAS STAYING AT A HOTEL NEAR HERE

THERE ARE LOTS
A HOTEL, HUH?
AROUND HERE, THOUGH!
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO TO 'EM ONE BY ONE
THANK YOU I'LL GIVE YOU SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT.
BUT I WON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN, SO YOU SHOULD JUST FORGET THIS WHOLE THING!
pats
pats
WELL, I GUESS WE COULD
DASHES
I DON'T KNOW, I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT YET.
DASHES
WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON TELLING HIM THOUGH IF WE DO FIND HIM?
SWISH
THANK HIM FOR THE TROUBLE HE WENT TO IN TRACKING US DOWN, I GUESS?

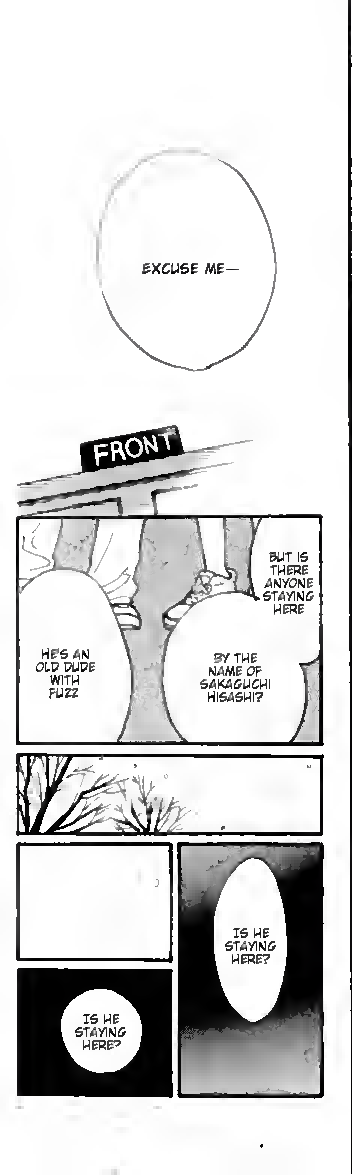

YOU KNOW,
BUT IT COULD JUST BE THE CASE THAT HIS CONDITION'S NOT REALLY THAT SERIOUS
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT, DON'T YOU THINK?
But I'm the kinda pissed self to find that that thought seems as how they were making my sick a fuss about it
....
"THAT'S PROBABLY A BIT WRONG
BUT THEN AGAIN,
MAYBE NOT"

This guy smells of hay.

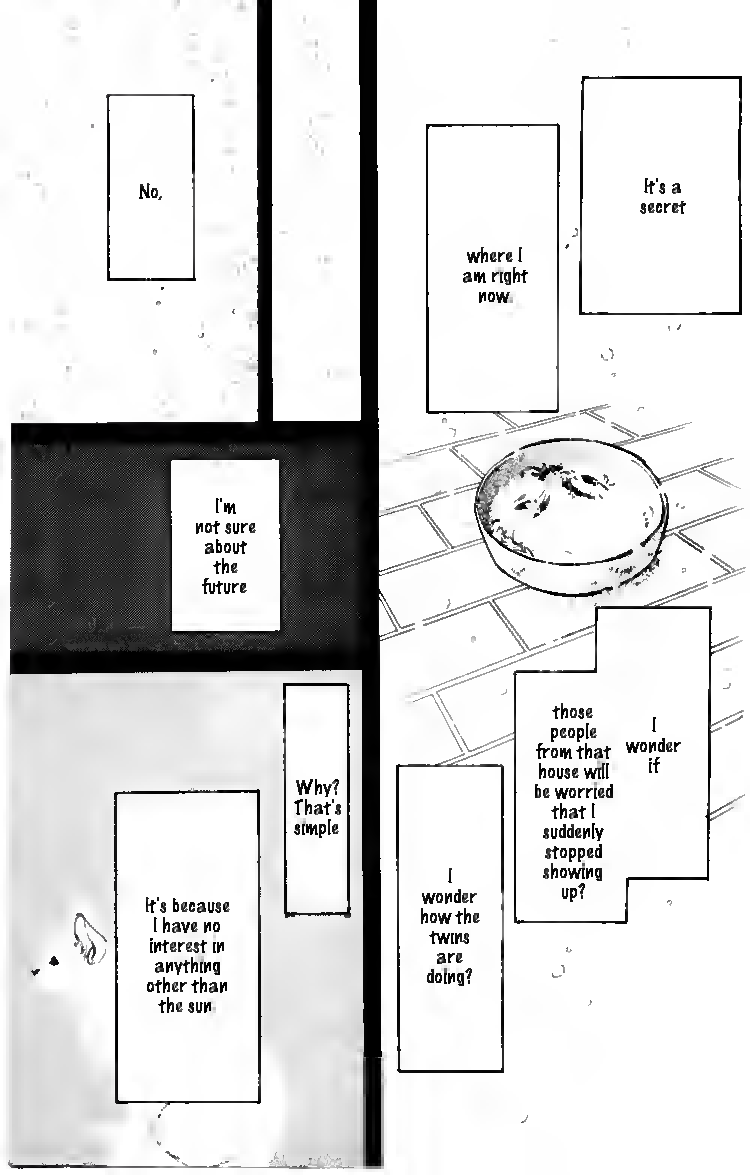
When he hugs me,

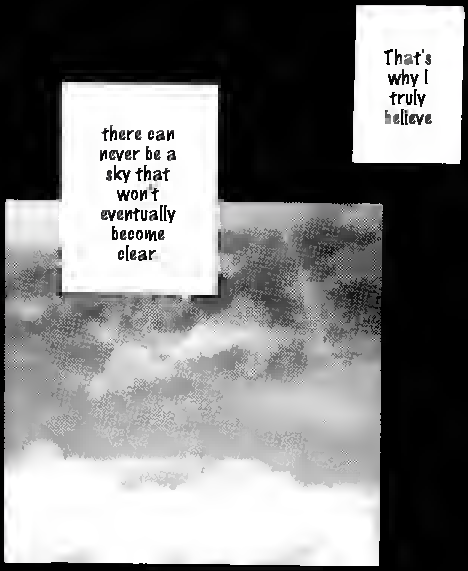
It's the kind of feeling I get when I'm basking in the sun.

I feel a rush of happiness.


EXCUSE ME—
FRONT
BUT IS THERE ANYONE STAYING HERE
HE'S AN OLD DUDE WITH FUZZ
BY THE NAME OF SAKAGUCHI HISASHI?
IS HE STAYING HERE?
IS HE STAYING HERE?

It even feels that way on a snowy day like today.
It's strange, I know


No,
I'm not sure about the future
Why? That's simple
It's because I have no interest in anything other than the sun
I wonder how the twins are doing?
I wonder if those people from that house will be worried that I suddenly stopped showing up?
where I am right now
It's a secret


That's why I truly believe
there can never be a sky that won't eventually become clear

THE END

収録作品メモ

「バラ色の明日」①巻 ■別冊マーガレット 平成9年1月号から4月号に掲載

*マーガレット コミックス

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